
NARUTO
SHONEN JUMP MANGA
Story & Art by
Masashi Kishimoto
volume
32



岸本斉史

It's 2006. I believe the serialization began in 1999, so that means we've entered our seventh year of publication! Long enough for kids that were just entering elementary school to now be in junior high... I recently started noticing how it seems like the years pass quicker and quicker. Where in the world did the time go?! When in the world did I become middle-aged?! Yikes...

—Masashi Kishimoto, 2006

Author/artist Masashi Kishimoto was born in 1974 in rural Okayama Prefecture, Japan. After spending time in art college, he won the Hop Step Award for new manga artists with his manga **Karakuri** (Mechanism). Kishimoto decided to base his next story on traditional Japanese culture. His first version of **Naruto**, drawn in 1997, was a one-shot story about fox spirits; his final version, which debuted in **Weekly Shonen Jump** in 1999, quickly became the most popular ninja manga in Japan.

NARUTO VOL. 32
The SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition

This graphic novel contains material that was originally published in English in **SHONEN JUMP** #69-70. Artwork in the magazine may have been slightly altered from that presented here.

STORY AND ART BY MASASHI KISHIMOTO

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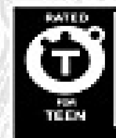
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PARENTAL ADVISORY
NARUTO is rated T for Teen and is recommended for ages 13 and up. This volume contains realistic and fantasy violence.
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SHONEN JUMP MANGA EDITION



VOL. 32

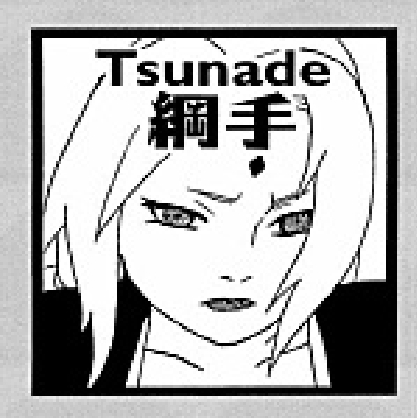
THE SEARCH FOR SASUKE

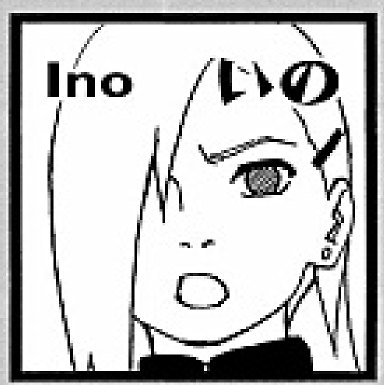
STORY AND ART BY

MASASHI KISHIMOTO













The Story So Far...

Naruto, the biggest troublemaker at the Ninja Academy in Konohagakure, finally becomes a ninja along with his classmates Sasuke and Sakura. During the Chûnin Selection Exams, Orochimaru and his henchmen launch *Operation Destroy Konoha*. To stop the attack and prevent the deaths of any more of Konoha's shinobi, Sarutobi, the Third Hokage, sacrifices his own life. In the wake of this tragedy, Lady Tsunade is sought out and declared Fifth Hokage.

Sasuke—lured by the Sound Ninja Four of Orochimaru—leaves Konohagakure. Naruto fights valiantly against Sasuke, but cannot stop his friend from following the possible path of darkness...

After two years, Naruto and his comrades reunite, each having grown and matured in attitude and aptitude. Gaara of the Sand has become Kazekage, and falls into the hands of the mysterious organization known as the Akatsuki.

After several fierce battles, Naruto and the others defeat rogue ninja Sasori and Deidara and recover Gaara. But their victory looks to be a bitter one as Gaara is dead. Or so it seems until Granny Chiyo, using a reincarnation jutsu, sacrifices her own life to resurrect the fallen Kazekage!


CHARACTERS
Sakura
サクラ
Naruto
ナルト
Yamato
ヤマト
Sai
サイ
Kakashi
カカシ



NARUTO

VOL. 32
THE SEARCH FOR SASUKE

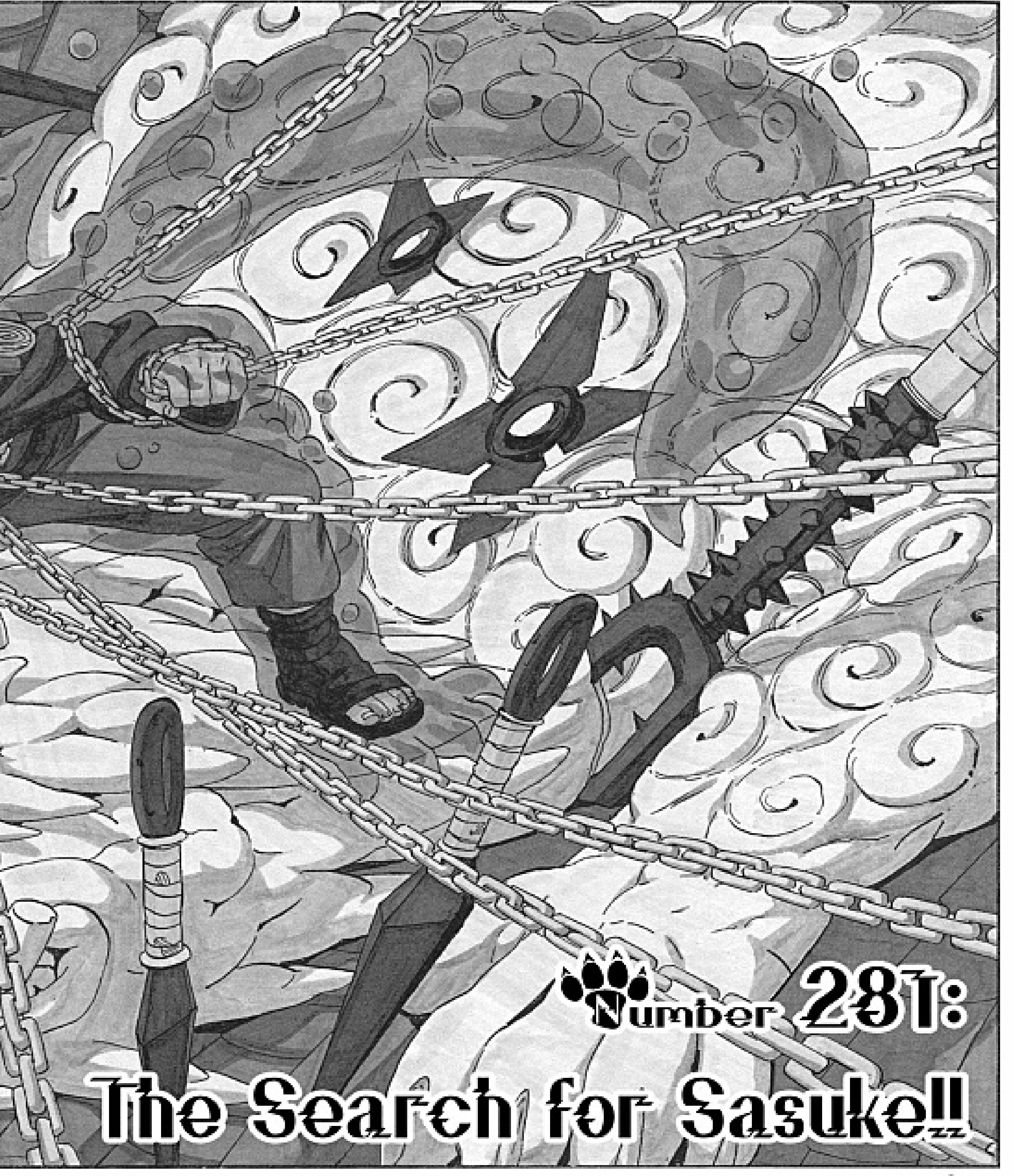
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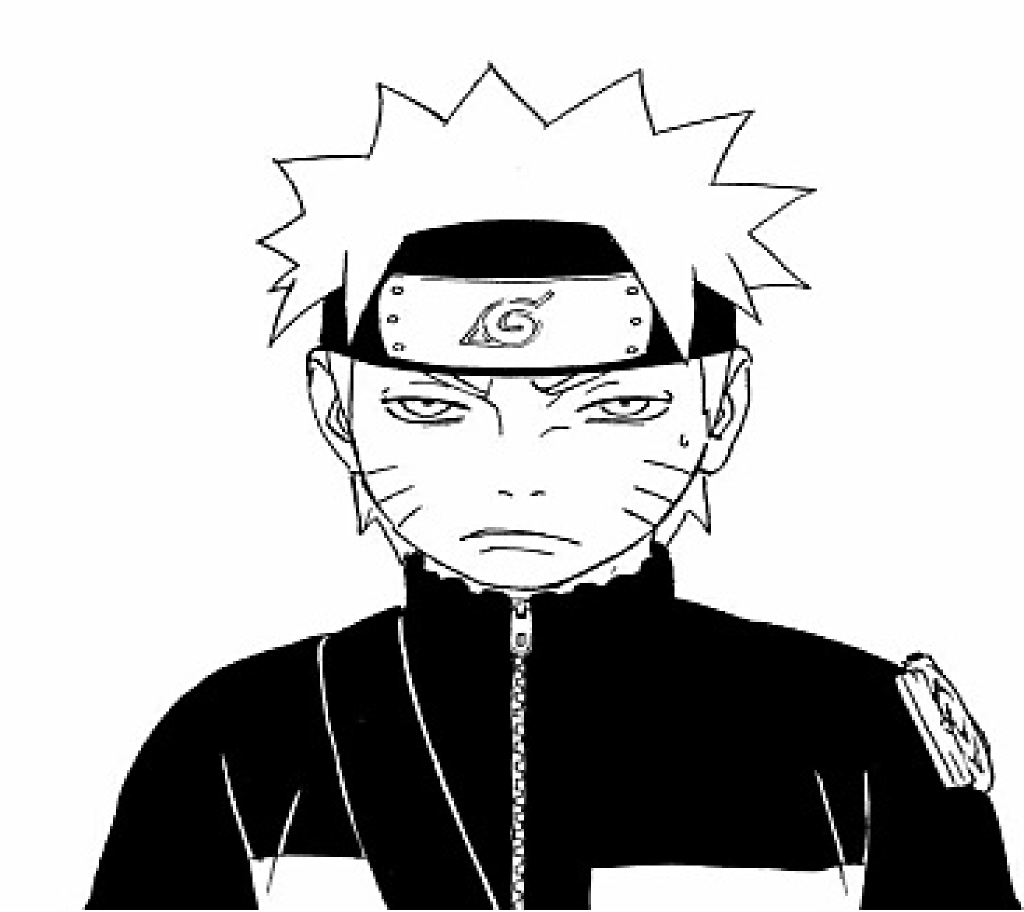
Number 281: The Search for Sasuke!!






Number 281:
The Search for Sasuke!!


NARUTO



LORD KAZEKAGE HAS RETURNED SAFELY TO HIS VILLAGE.
SUFFERED JUST ONE CASUALTY... SUNA-GAKURE'S GRANNY CHIYO.
TEAM GUY AND TEAM KAKASHI HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THEIR MISSIONS.
THEY'RE SCHEDULED TO RETURN TO KONOHA THREE DAYS FROM NOW.





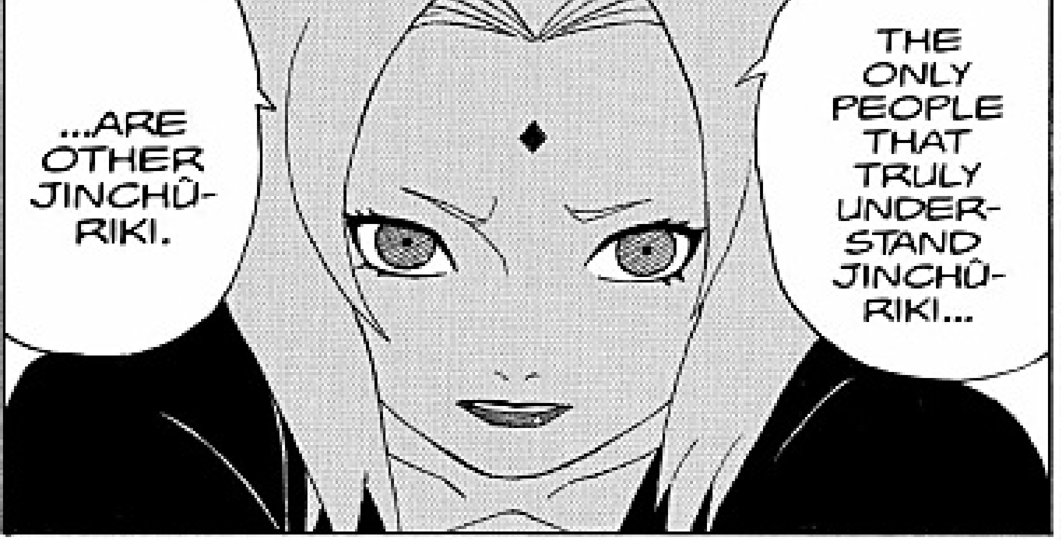




EVEN THOUGH *THIS* MISSION WENT RELATIVELY WELL...
...I STILL AGREE WITH LORD JIRAIYA THAT IT IS INADVISABLE TO INTENTIONALLY SEND NARUTO...
...INTO THE LAIR OF THE VERY PEOPLE TARGETING TAILED BEASTS...

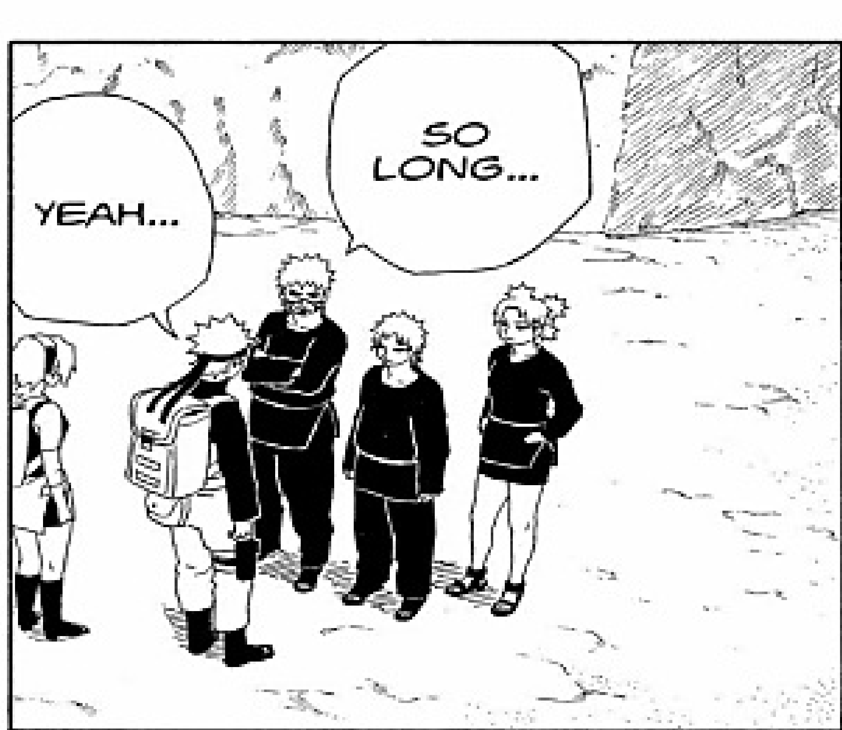




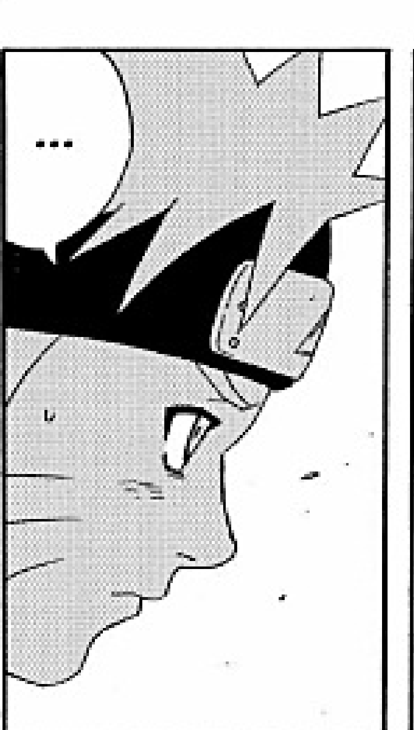



AND BESIDES...
...HE'S GOT THAT MYSTERIOUS POWER...
...ONE THAT MAKES EVERYONE... WANT TO BET ON HIM...
(HEADSTONE: CHIYO)


SAKURA, NARUTO, TIME TO GO.
RIGHT!
WHIRL...
SAKURA, YOU COMING?
TCCH
WHISH
THANK YOU... GRANNY CHIYO...

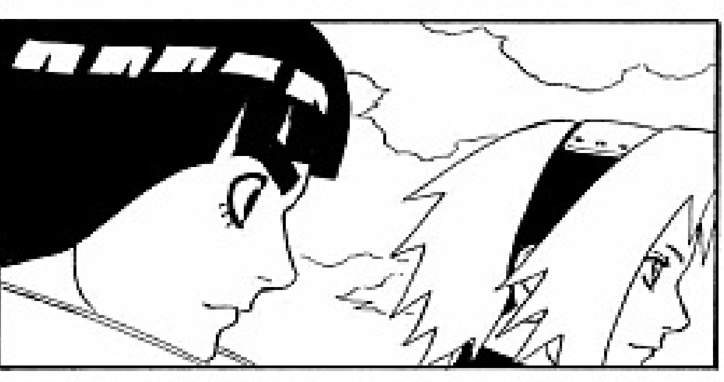

SO LONG...
YEAH...


...

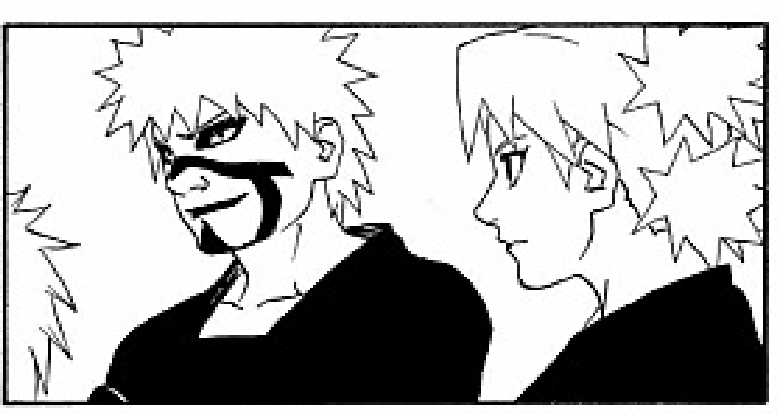

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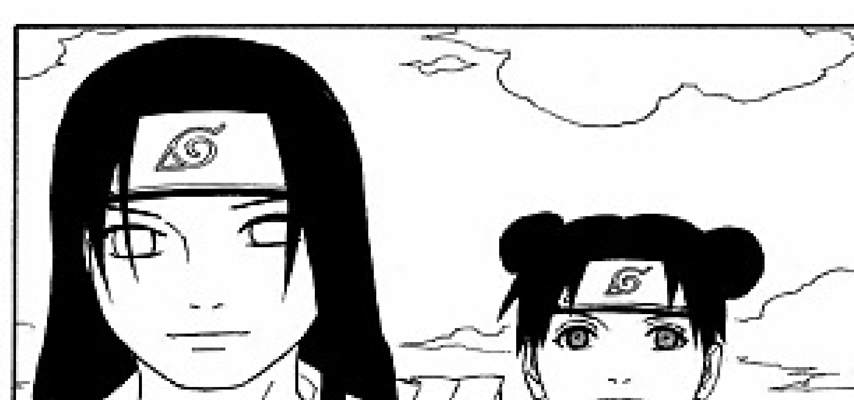

HEH... I GUESS THIS IS WHERE WE'RE SUPPOSED TO SHAKE HANDS OR SOMETHING, BUT...
...I'M NOT REALLY GOOD AT THESE THINGS, SO... LET'S JUST...


!



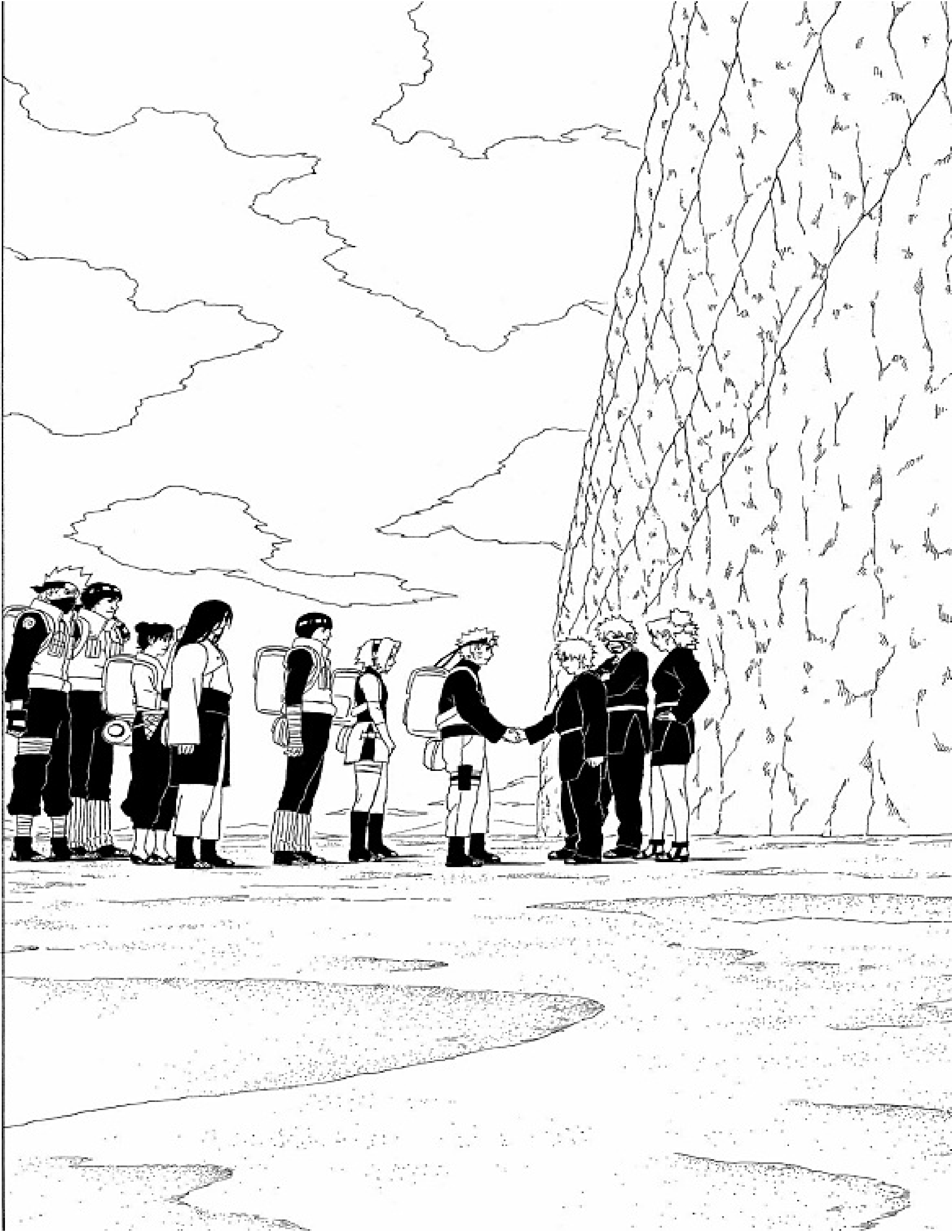


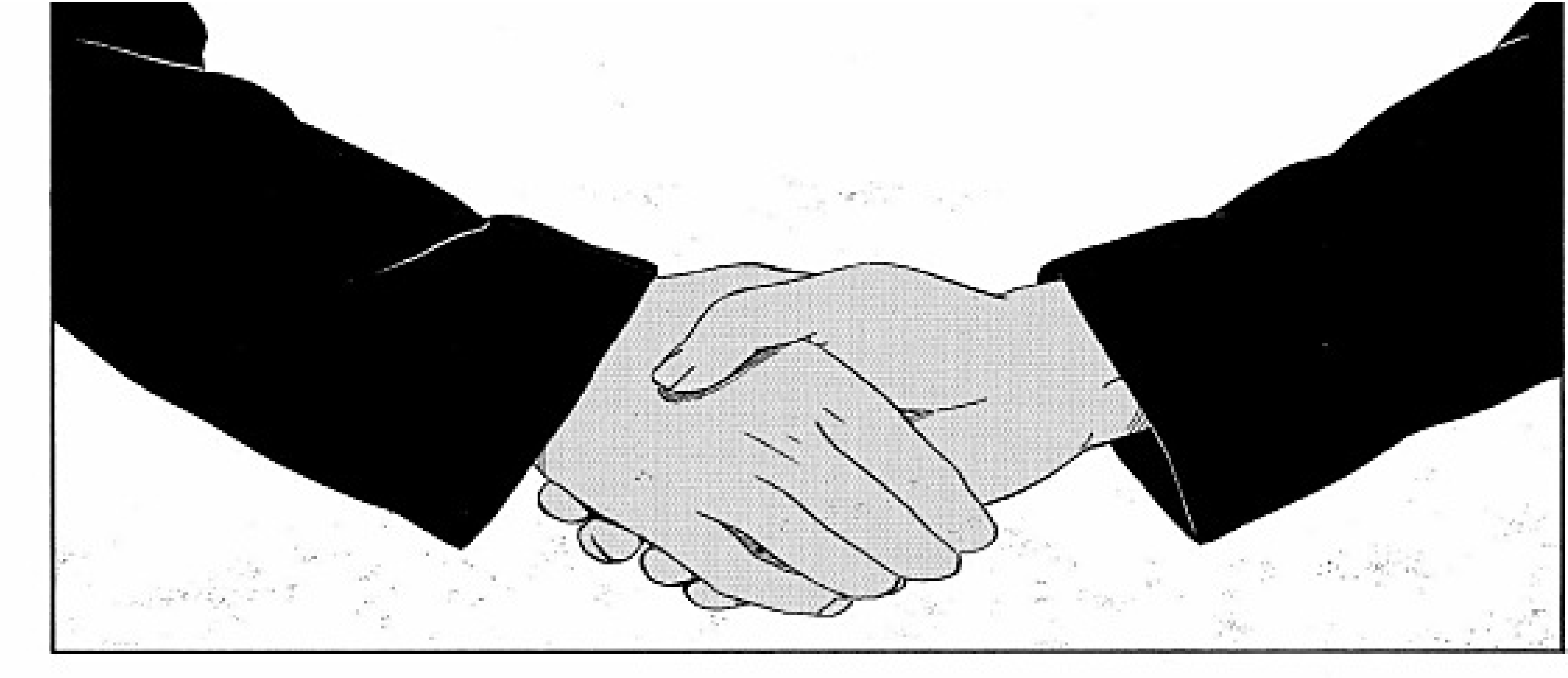


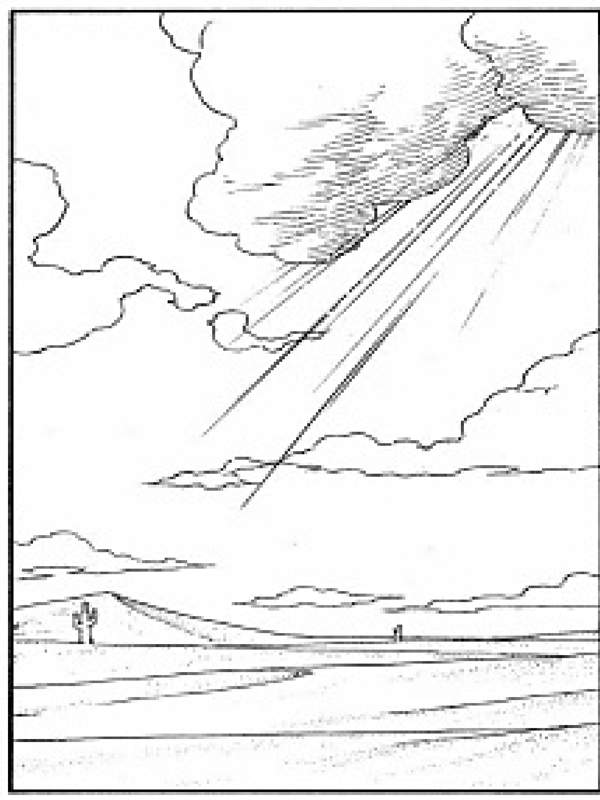




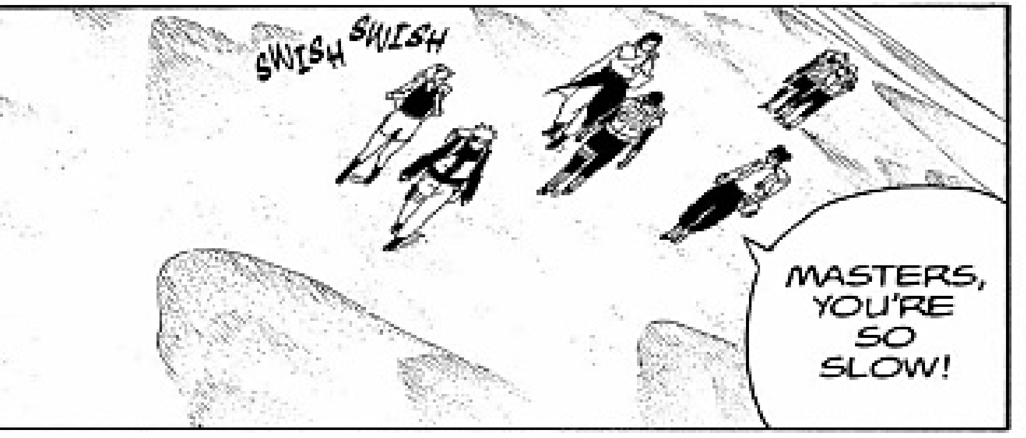
愛
!
KSSH
TWITCH








IRK IRK IRK
...


SWISH SWISH
MASTERS, YOU'RE SO SLOW!


SORRY, GUY.
...
THE *MANGEKYO SHARINGAN* TAKES A LOT OUT OF ME... GONNA BE A WHILE BEFORE I CAN MOVE ON MY OWN AGAIN...

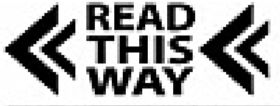

OKAY, THEN!
HEY!
WAIT!



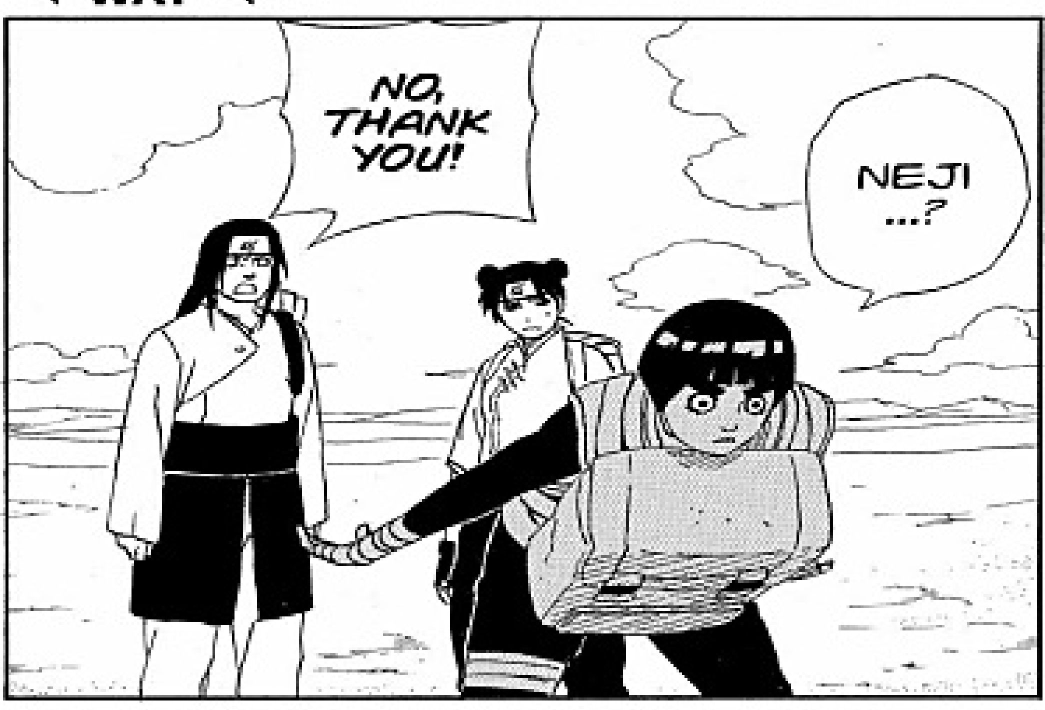

UMM, WHAT ARE THEY DOING?
ARE THEY PLAYING PIGGYBACK? ...THAT'S JUST WEIRD...
ERRR... WHAT?!
...
BRILLIANT, MASTER GUY! A TRAINING DRILL!!

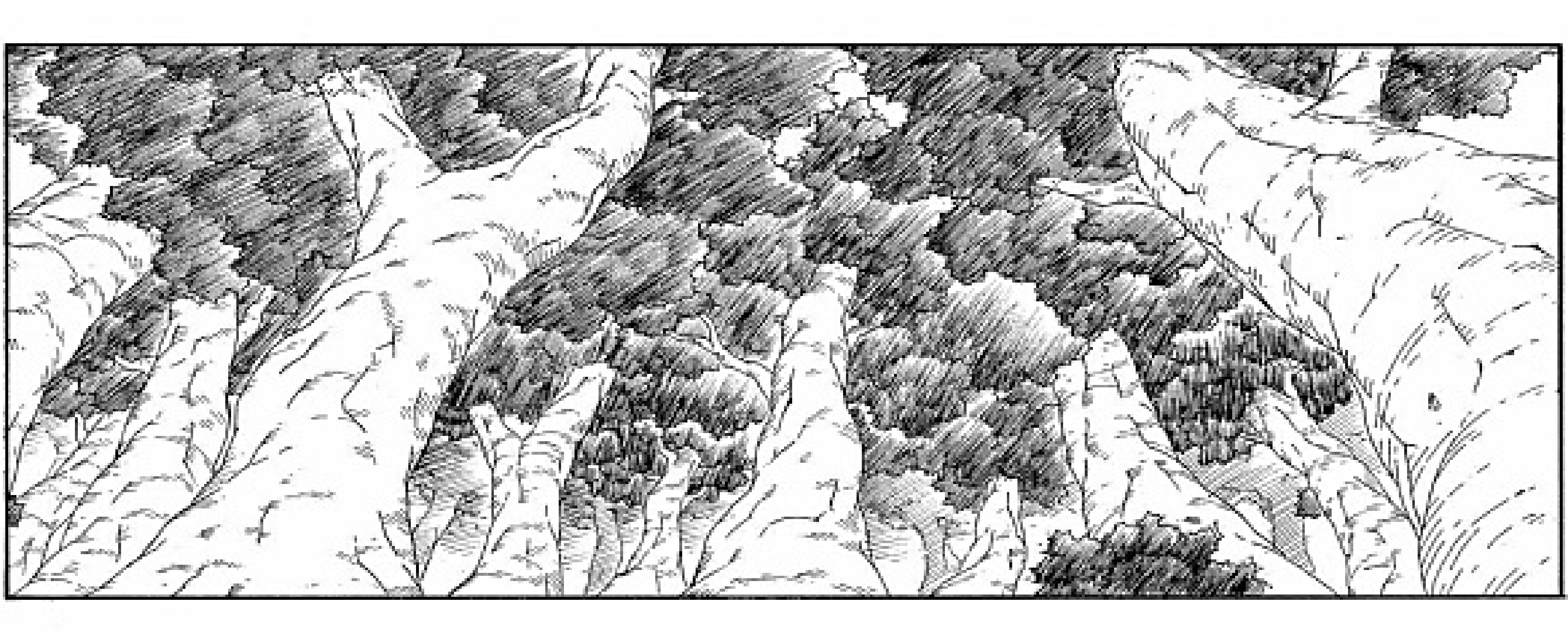

WHISH
OKAY, PEOPLE! NOW WE'RE MOVING!!


WOOOSH
A-HA HA HA! HOPE YOU ALL CAN KEEP UP WITH ME!!


READ THIS WAY

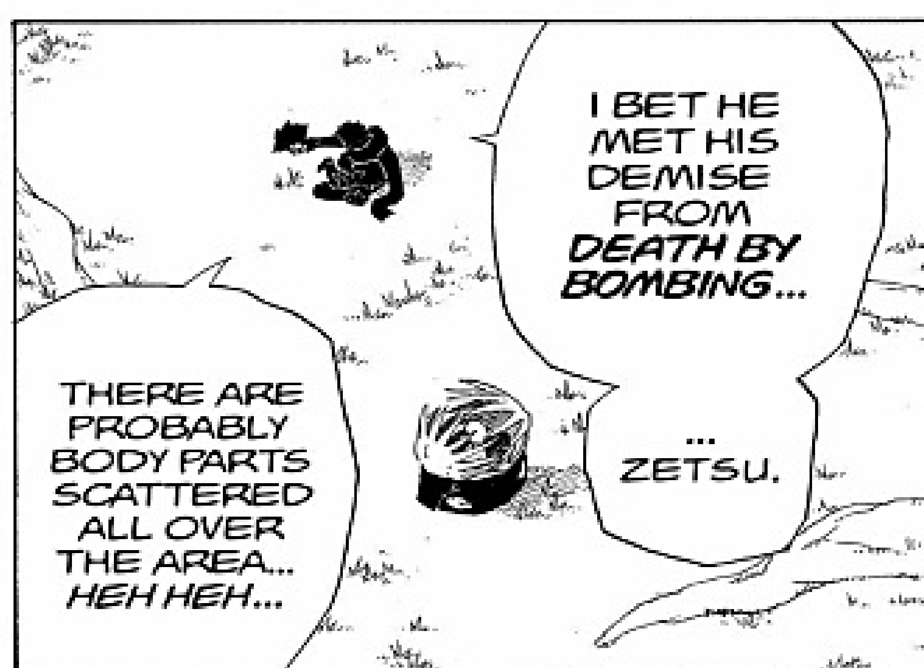

...OKAY, THIS LOOKS EVEN WEIRDER WHEN THEY'RE IN MOTION ...


NEJI ...?
NO, THANK YOU!

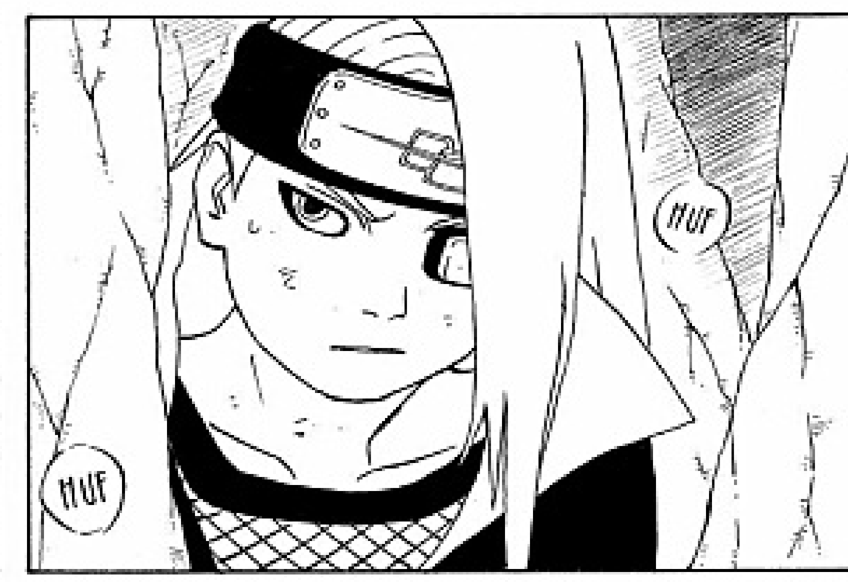



ALAS, MR. ZETSU ...
...SEEMS WE'VE LOST DEIDARA.


!
YOU THERE, DROP MY HAND!

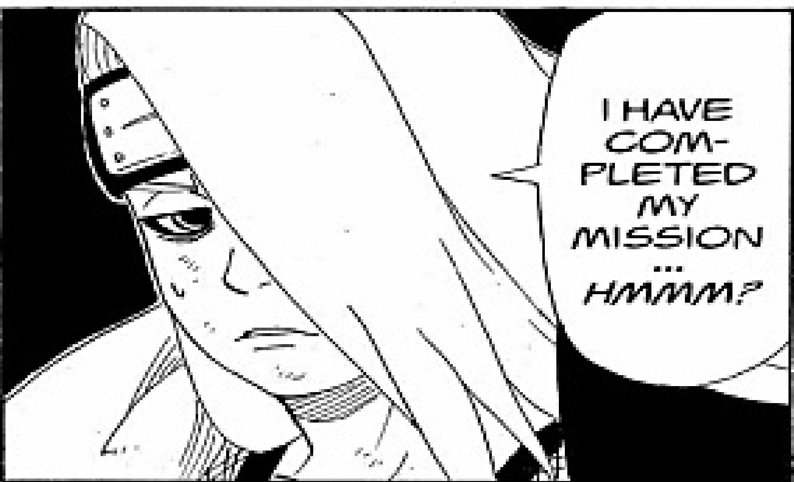

THERE ARE PROBABLY BODY PARTS SCATTERED ALL OVER THE AREA... *HEH HEH...*
I BET HE MET HIS DEMISE FROM ***DEATH BY BOMBING...***
... ZETSU.


WELL... MY TASTE BUDS DO BETRAY ME ...YOU'RE ALIVE!

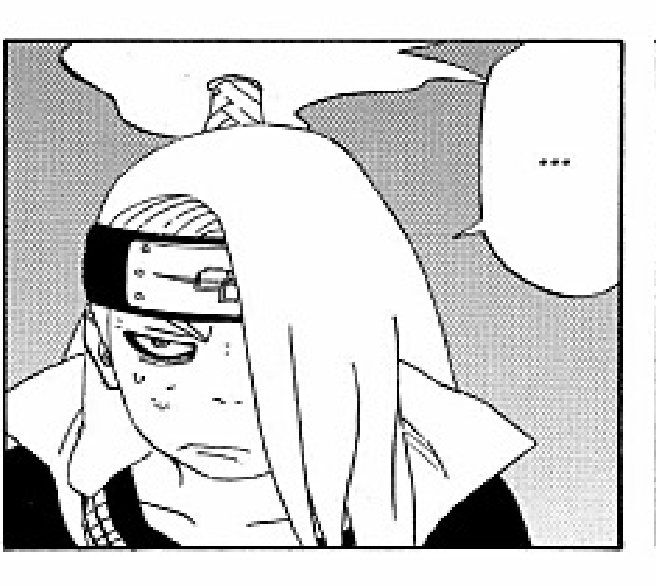

MUF
MUF

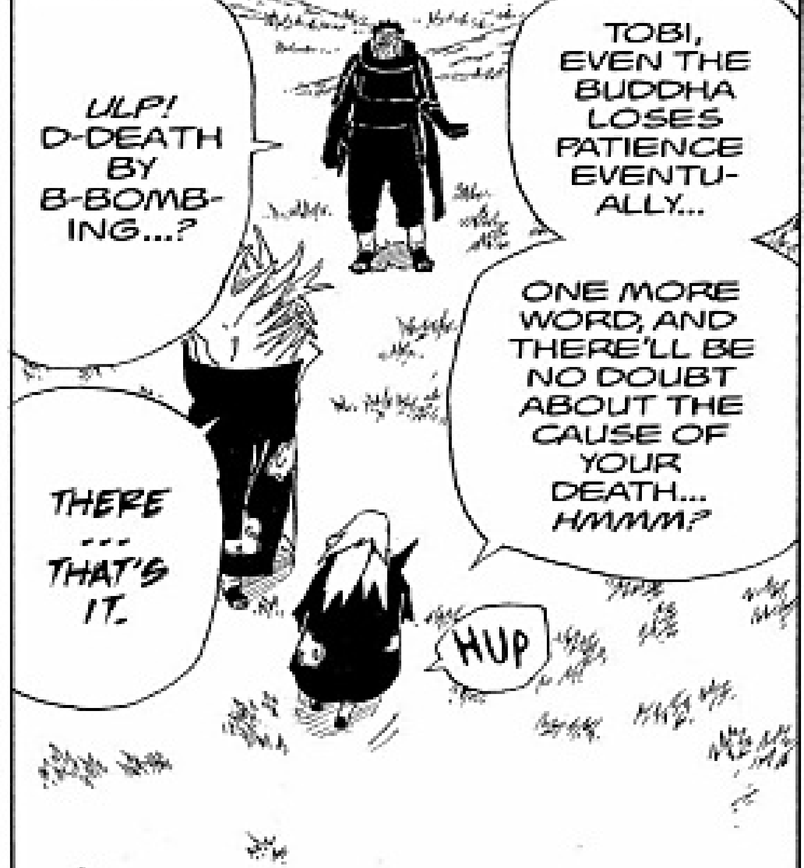

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WHAT HAPPENED TO THE JINCHŪ-RIKI?

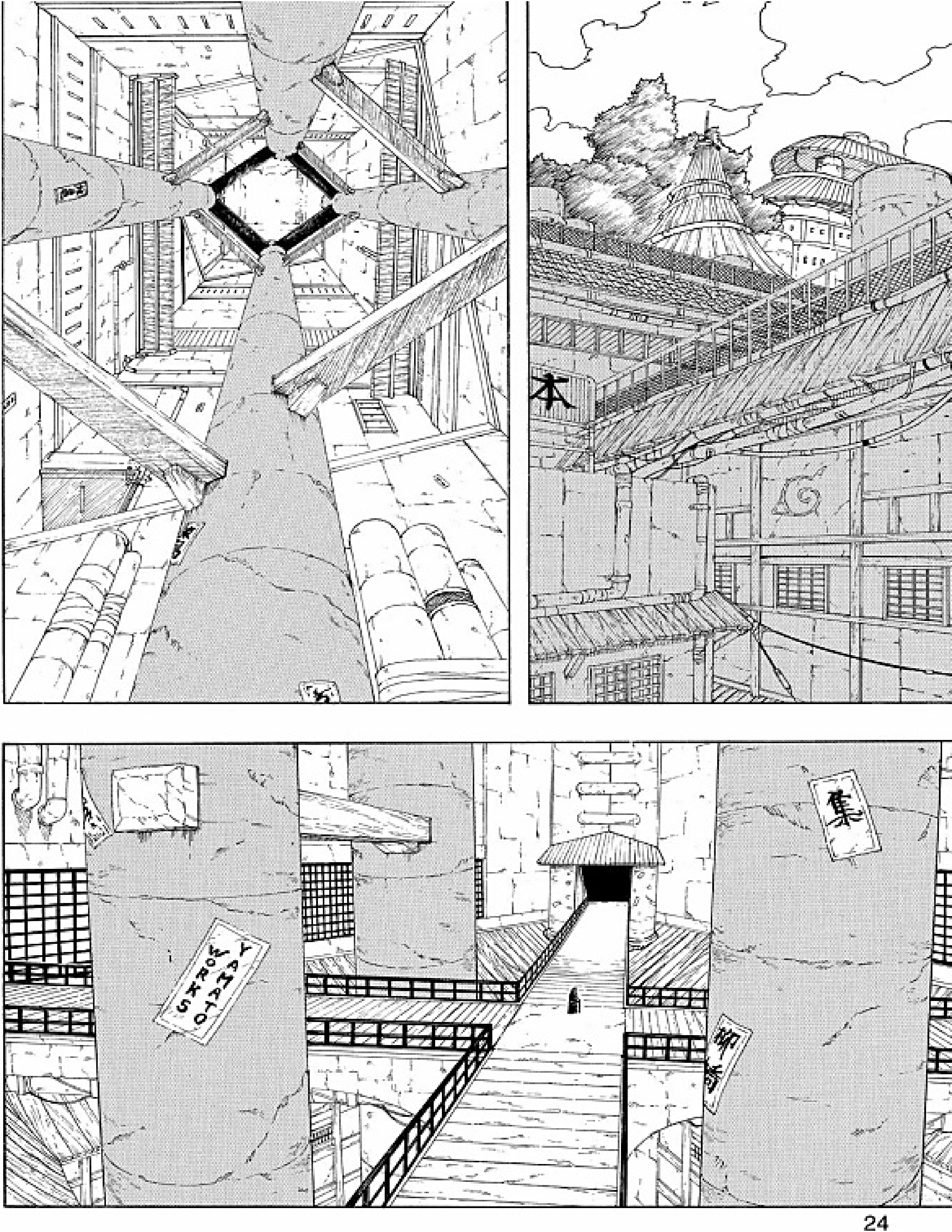

I HAVE COM-PLETED MY MISSION ... HMMM?


A CLOSE ONE THOUGH, EH, DEIDARA?
BUT AT LEAST YOU'RE ALL RIGHT...
...OR PER-HAPS NOT...

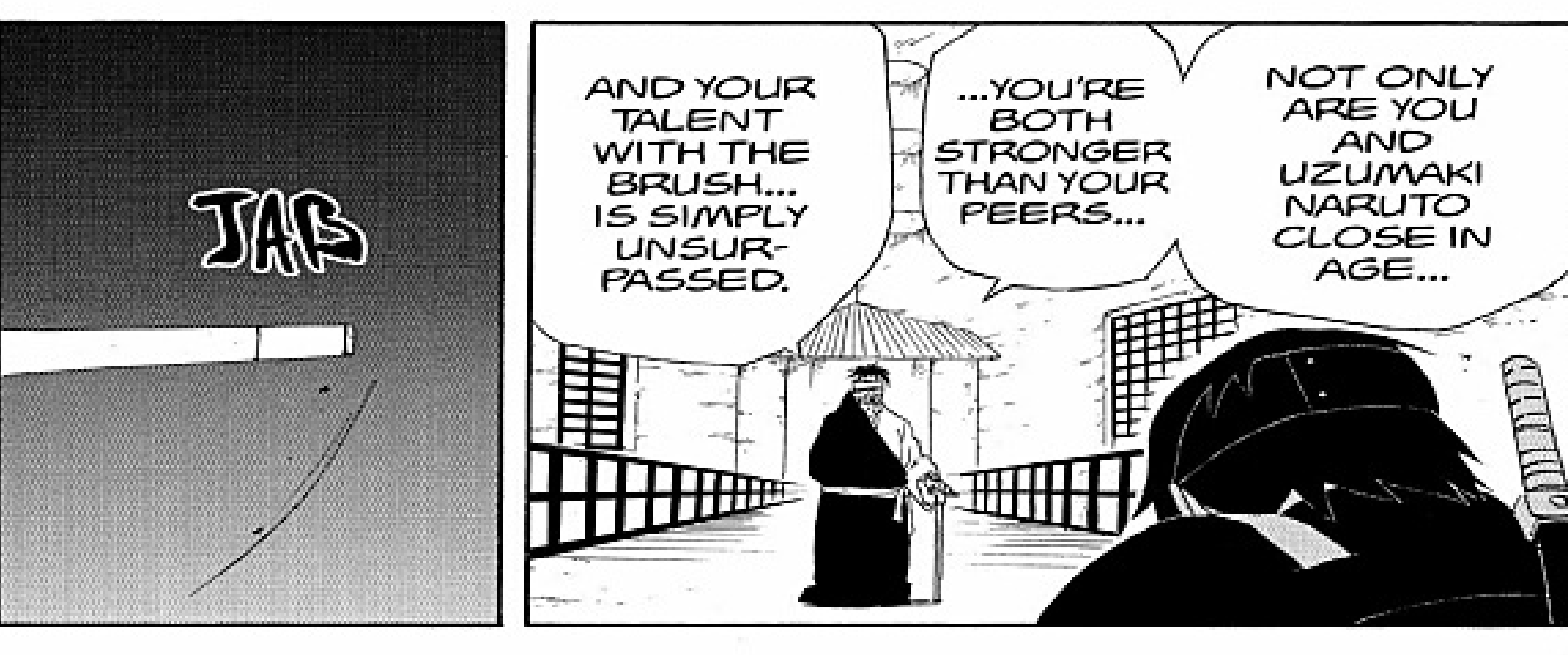

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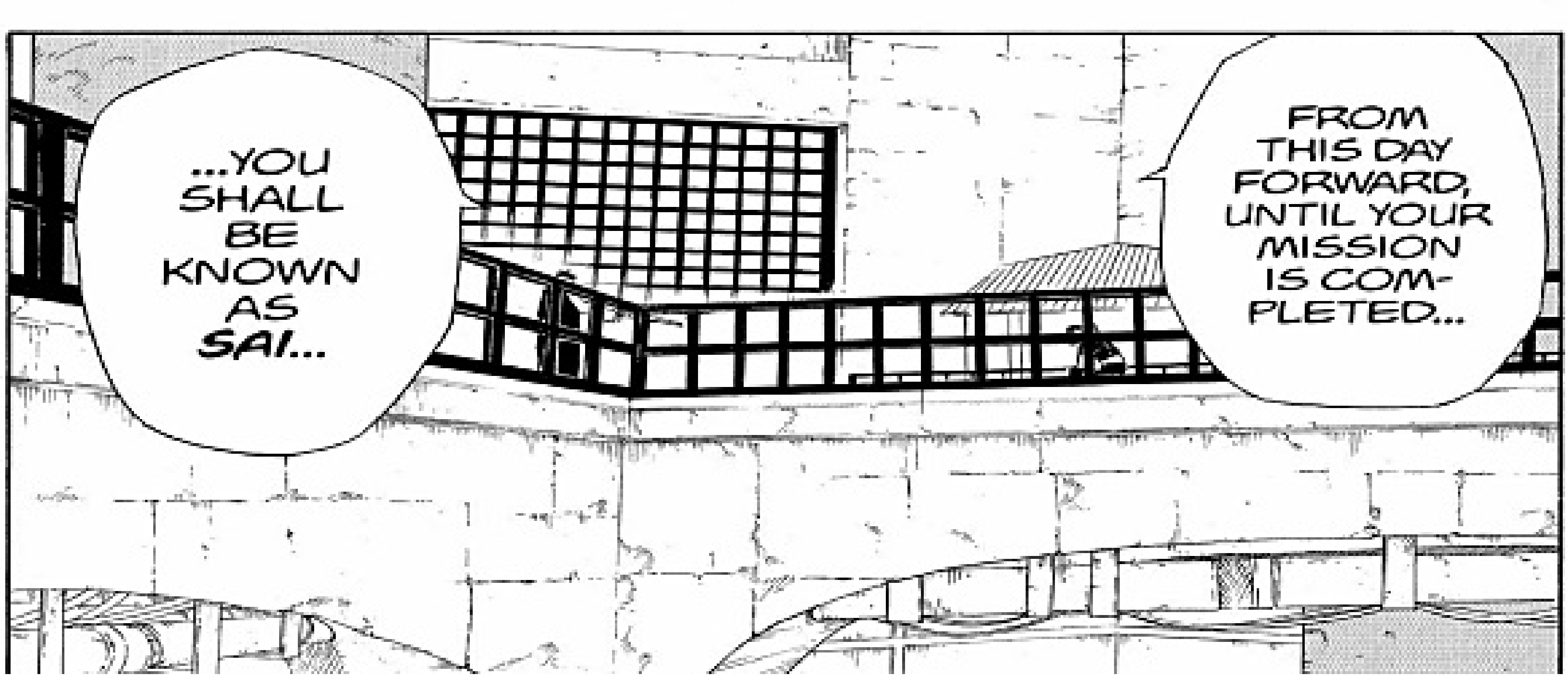

TOBI, EVEN THE BUDDHA LOSES PATIENCE EVENTU-ALLY...
ULP! D-DEATH BY B-BOMB-ING...?
ONE MORE WORD, AND THERE'LL BE NO DOUBT ABOUT THE CAUSE OF YOUR DEATH... HMMM?
THERE ... THAT'S IT.
HUP


LEAP
DEATH BY SUFFO-CATION ...!
CLAMP
UGH!

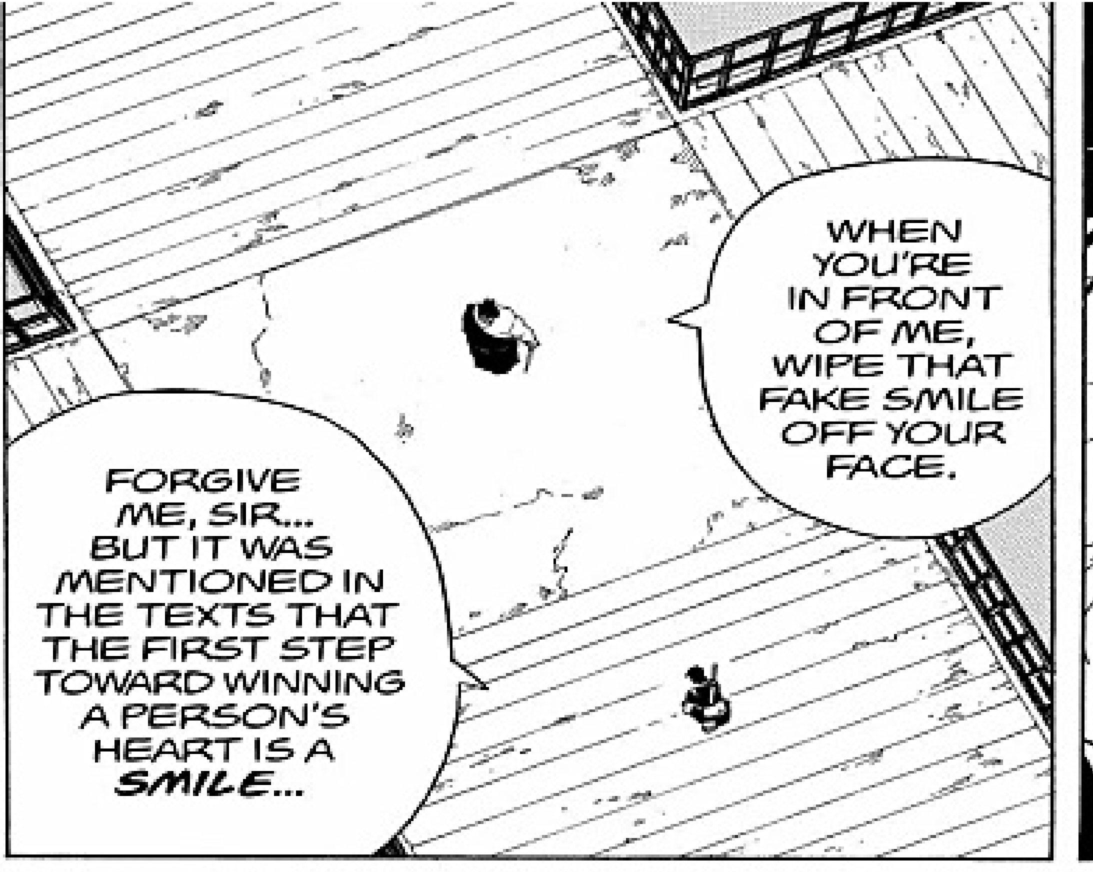

本
集
YAMATO WORKS

I HAVE ALREADY MADE ARRANGEMENTS...
...FOR YOU TO BE ASSIGNED TO TEAM KAKASHI...






SAI... IS IT...?









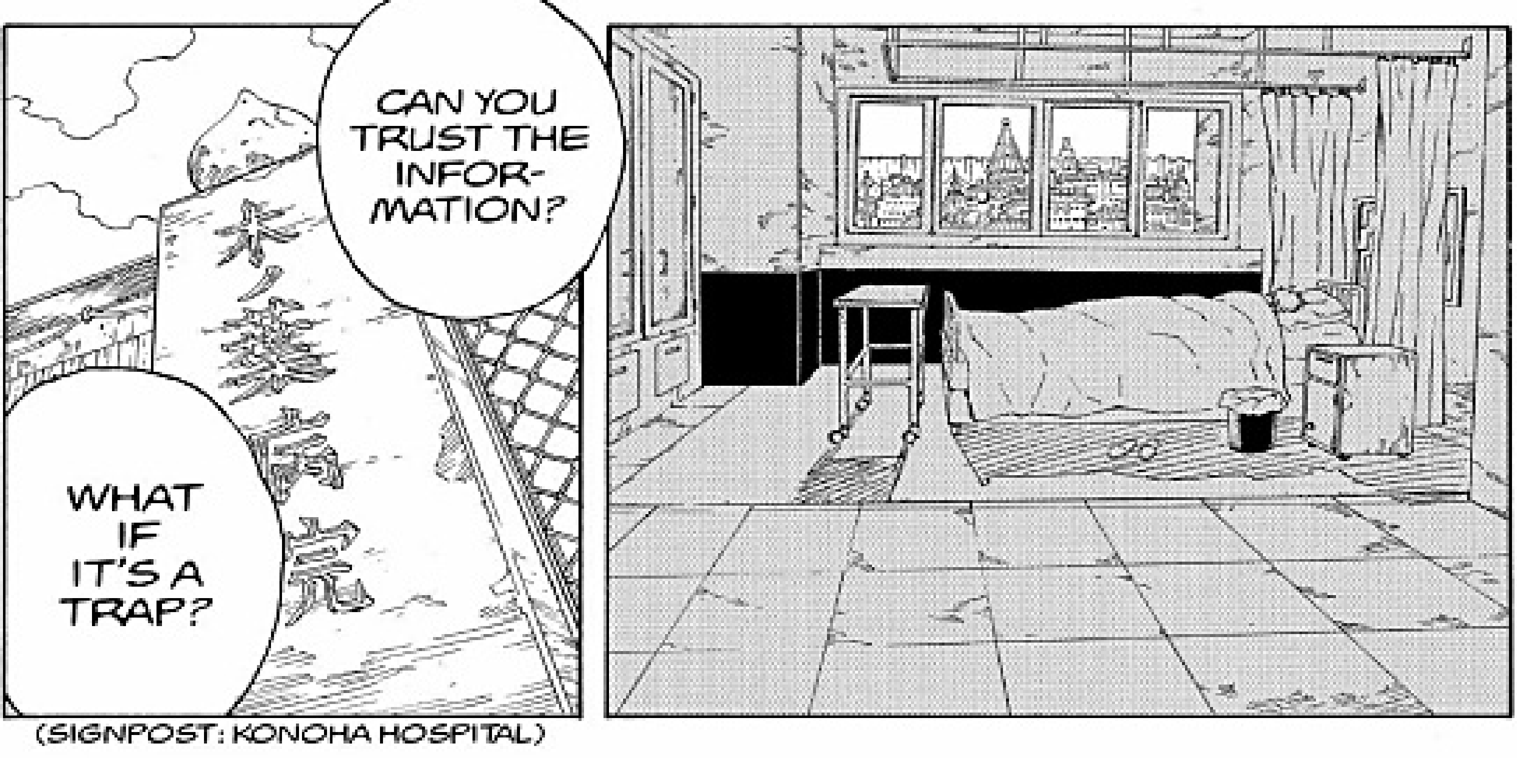
I GUESS I'M STILL NOT VERY GOOD...

...AT FACIAL EXPRES-SIONS...


Let's keep aiming for untiring flavor and amusement...!!
Takahashi Kazuhiro
2005.11.8
たこ焼き
CELEBRATING 6 YEARS!!

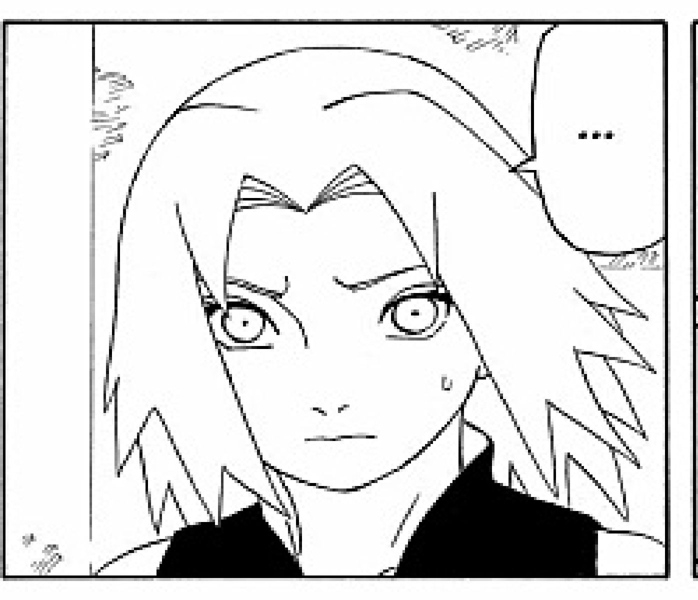

Number
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Team Kakashi Returns





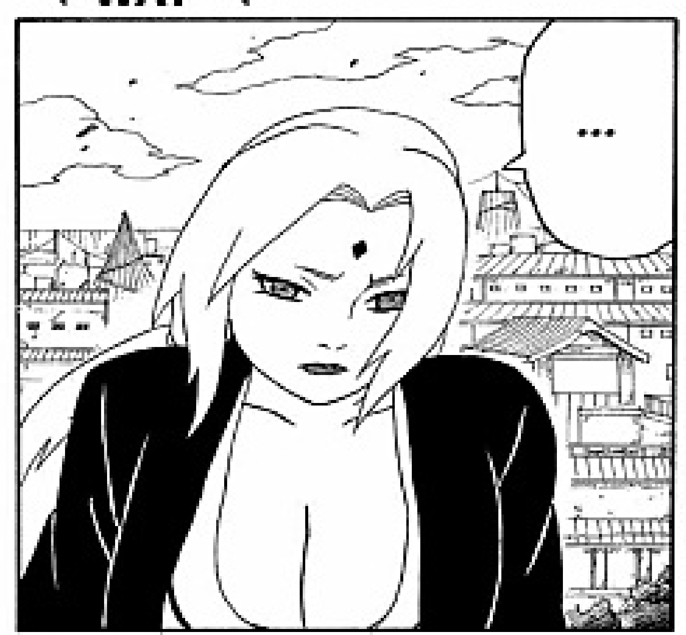
(SIGNPOST: KONOHA HOSPITAL)









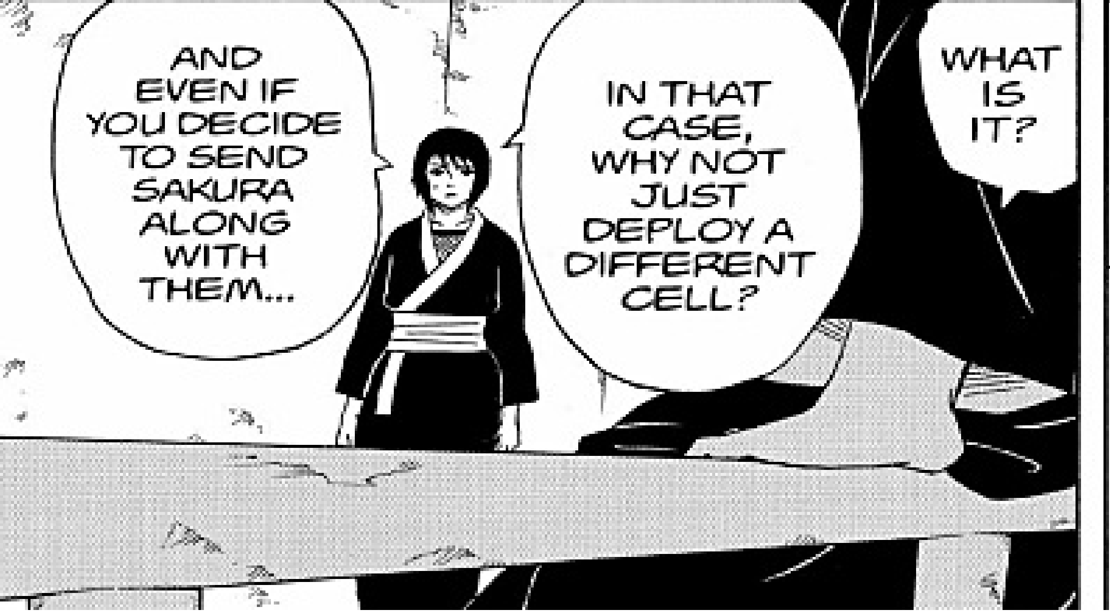


YES, BUT KAKASHI WILL BE OUT OF COMMISSION FOR OVER A WEEK NOW.

AND THERE ARE ONLY SIX DAYS LEFT UNTIL THE RENDEZVOUS...

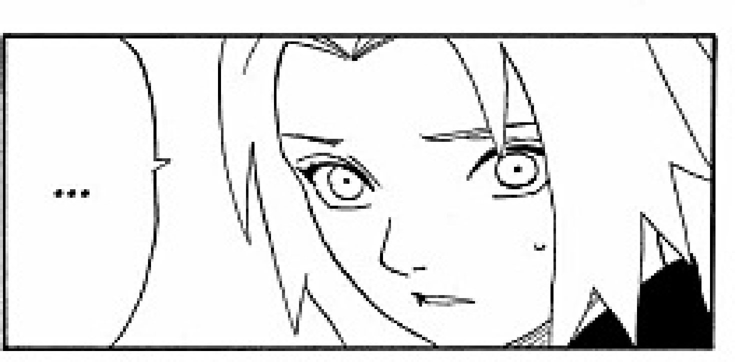
...SO THE ONLY SOLUTION IS TO ASSEMBLE A NEW TEAM...

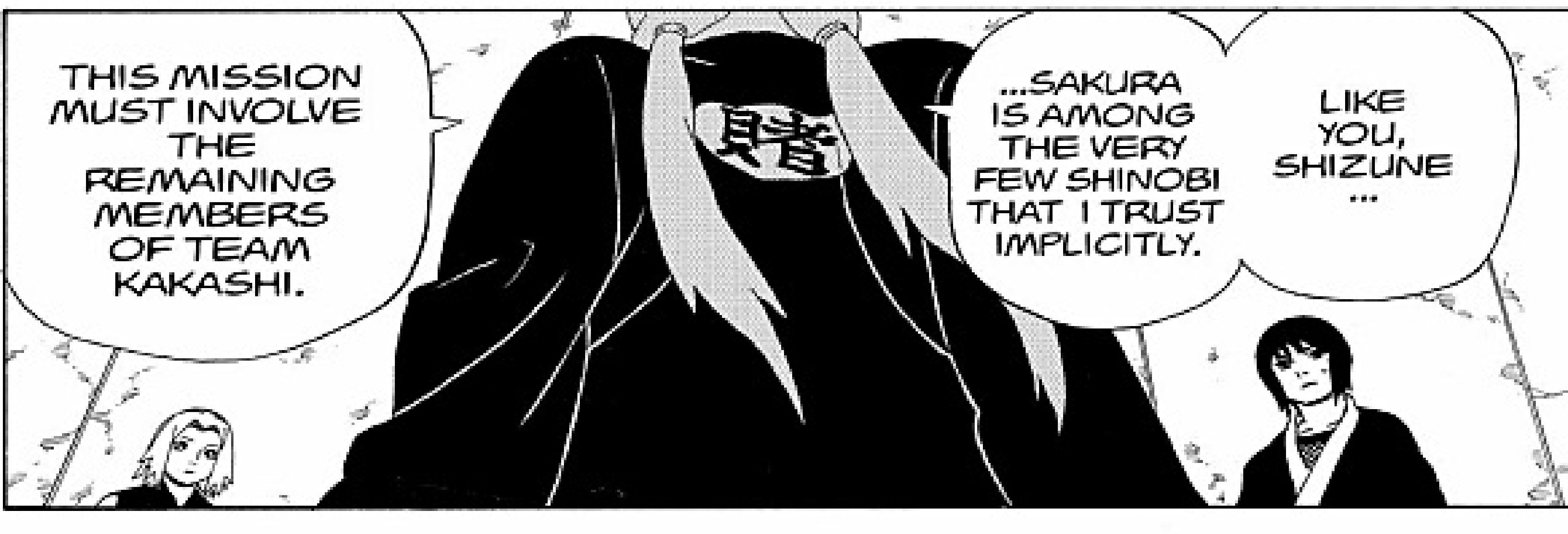





...I FEEL NARUTO SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM THIS MISSION ...!


...


...


LIKE YOU, SHIZUNE ...
...SAKURA IS AMONG THE VERY FEW SHINOBI THAT I TRUST IMPLICITLY.
THIS MISSION MUST INVOLVE THE REMAINING MEMBERS OF TEAM KAKASHI.


YOU DON'T THINK MY CELL CAN HANDLE IT?


FRANKLY ...? NO.

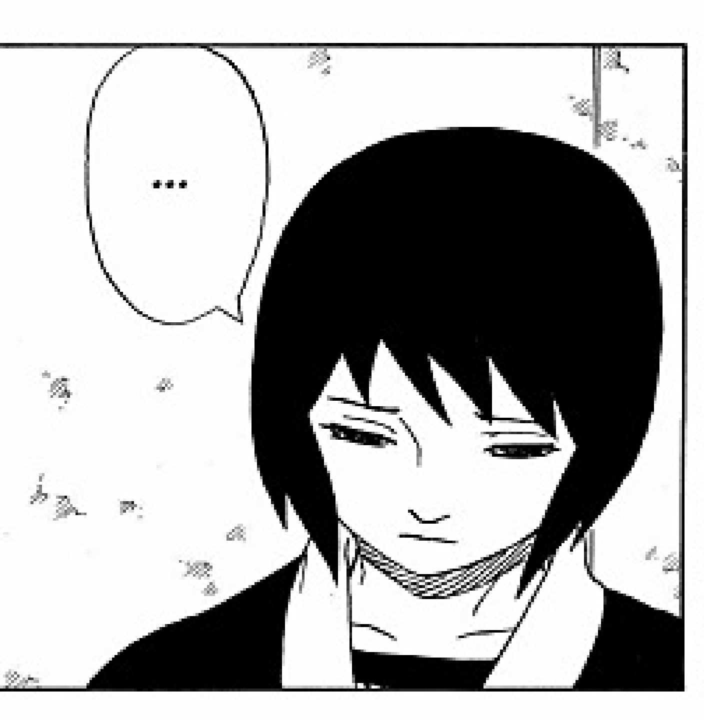

READ THIS WAY


...?

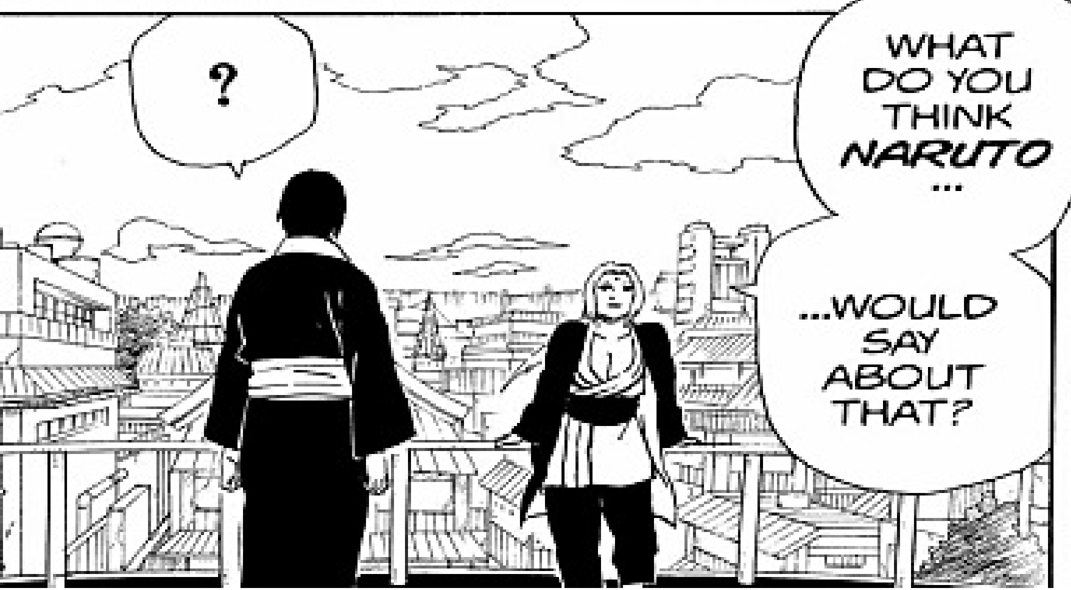

THIS IS MORE THAN JUST A MISSION TO TEAM KAKASHI.
IT'S PERSONAL.


SASUKE IS NOT MERELY THEIR FORMER TEAMMATE. HE'S THEIR FRIEND.

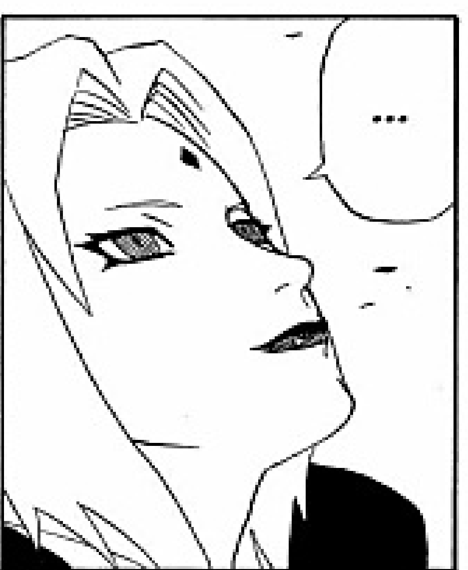

THEY'VE PLEDGED THEIR LIVES TO RESCUING HIM. THEIR DESIRE TO HONOR THAT PLEDGE IS WHY THEY WILL SUCCEED...
...AND WHY YOU AND YOUR TEAM, SHIZUNE, MIGHT NOT.


...

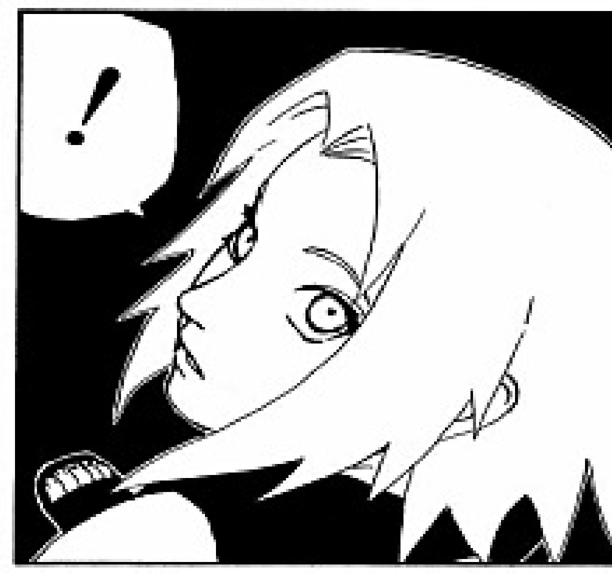

UNDER-STOOD.


BUT I STILL THINK NARUTO...
WHAT DO YOU THINK NARUTO ...
...WOULD SAY ABOUT THAT?
?

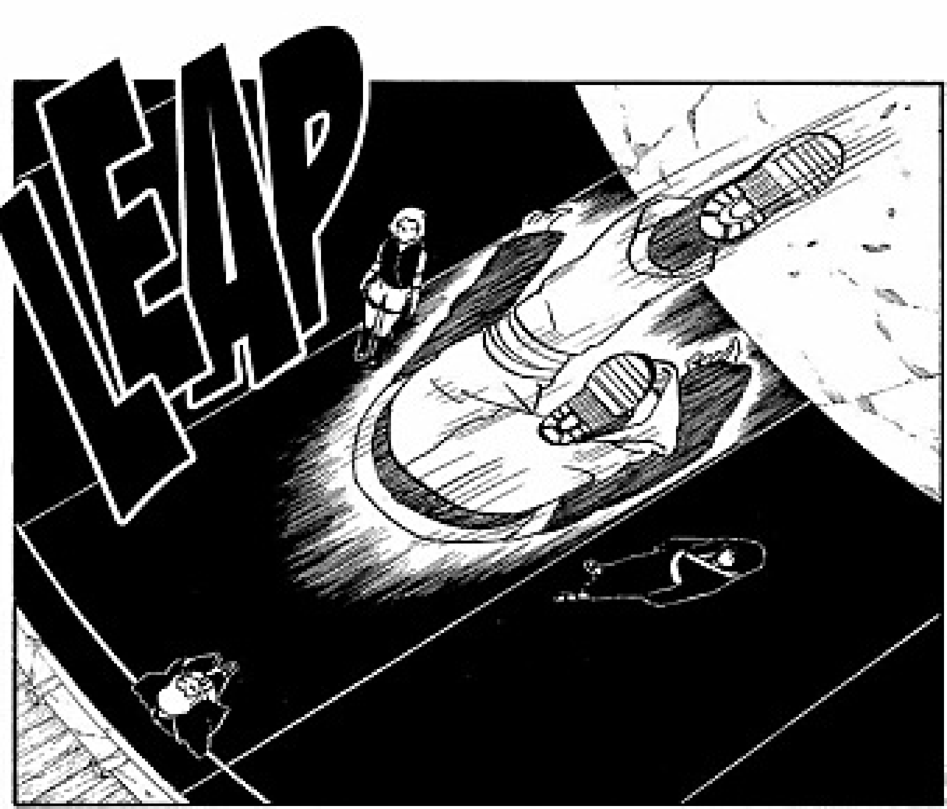
I'D SAY WE GOTTA GET SOME ***NEW*** TEAM-MATES!



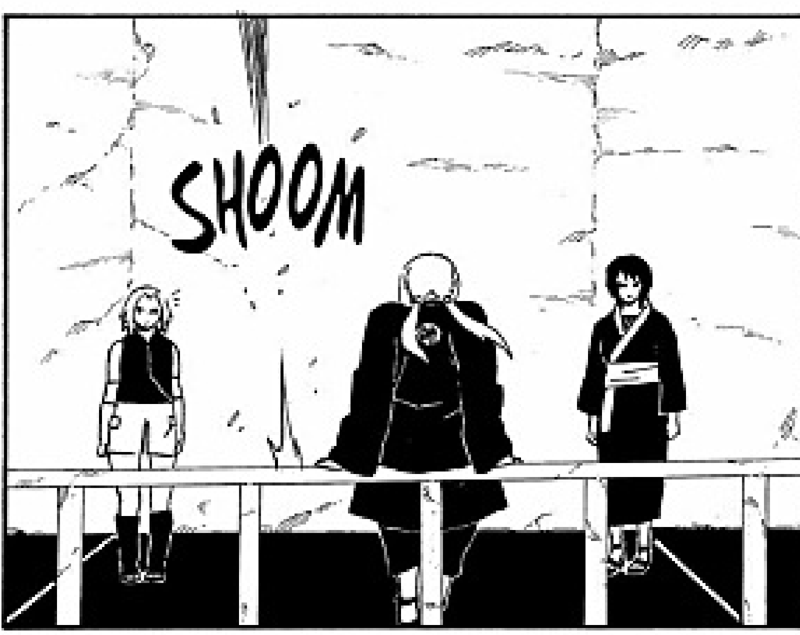


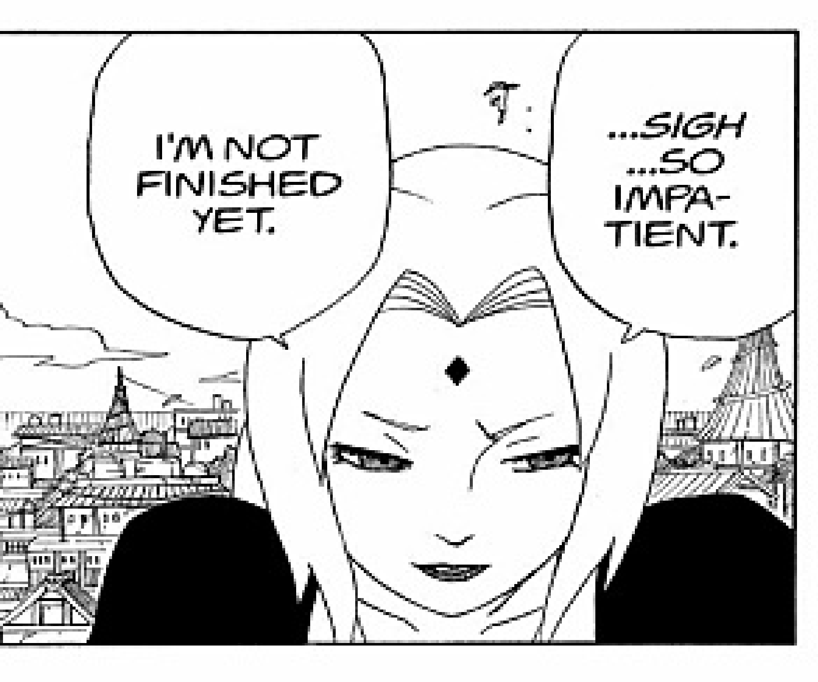



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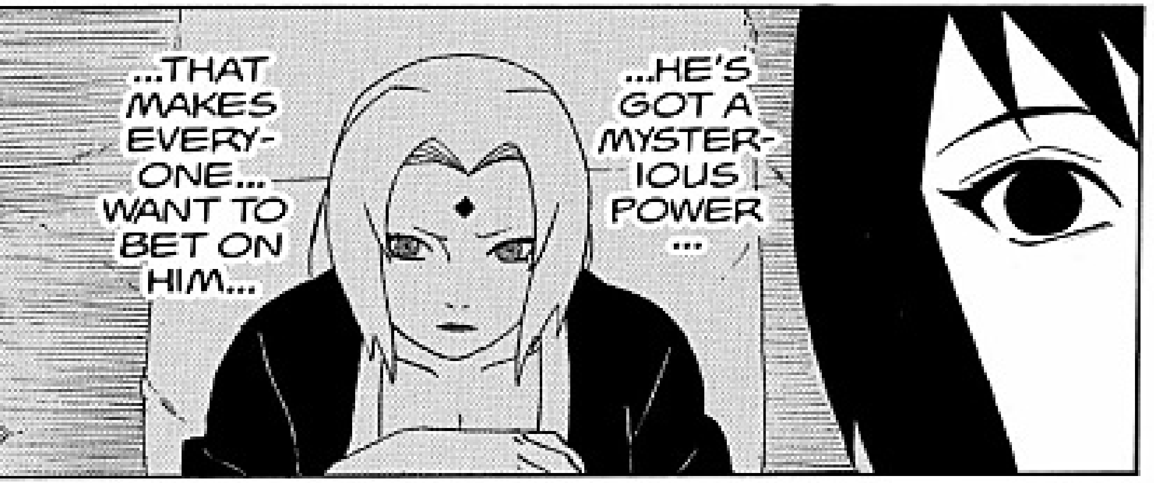

LEAP

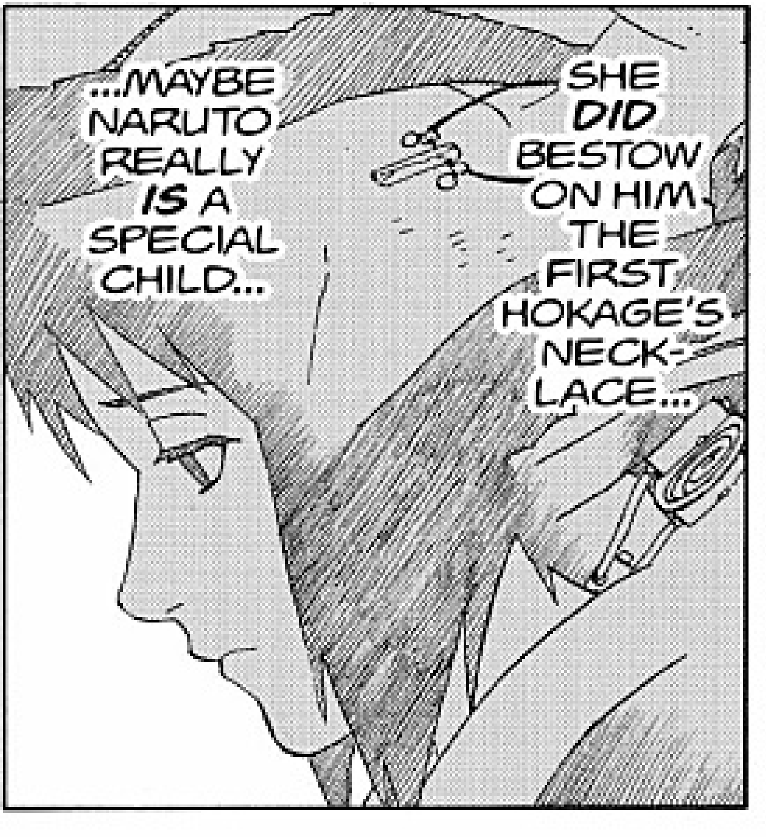

SEE YA!
THUMP...


SHOOM


...SIGH ...SO IMPA-TIENT.
I'M NOT FINISHED YET.

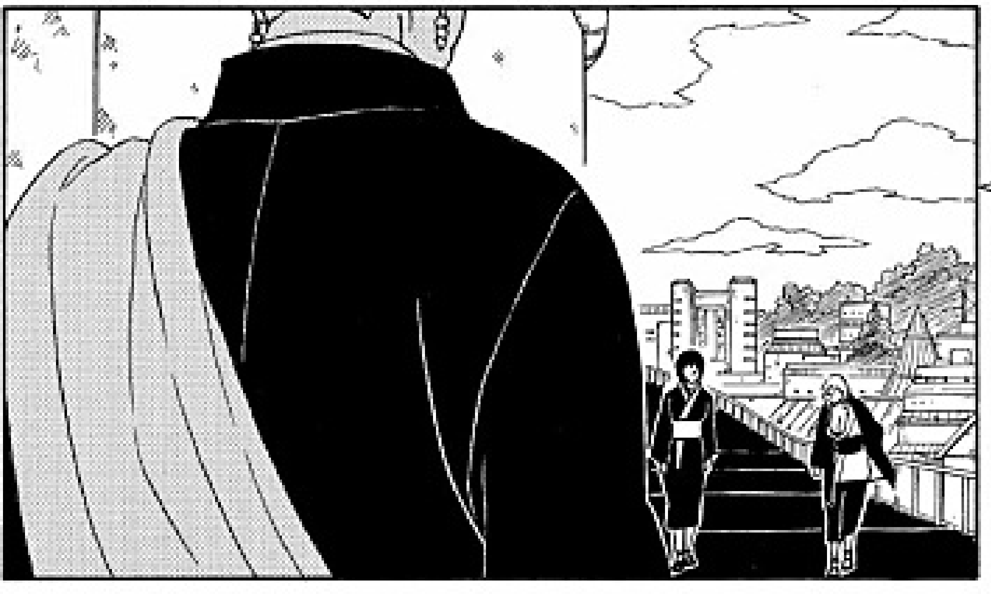

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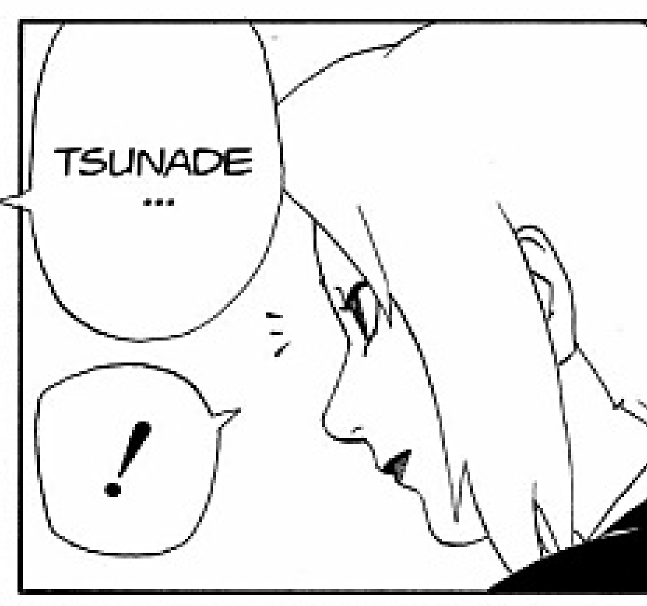

...HE'S GOT A MYSTER-IOUS POWER ...
...THAT MAKES EVERY-ONE... WANT TO BET ON HIM...


SHE DID BESTOW ON HIM THE FIRST HOKAGE'S NECKLACE...
...MAYBE NARUTO REALLY IS A SPECIAL CHILD...


TO BE HOKAGE IS MY DREAM...


WE WILL FILL THE TWO VACANCIES LEFT BY KAKASHI AND SASUKE.
PLEASE INFORM NARUTO.
SHF
...YES, MILADY ...

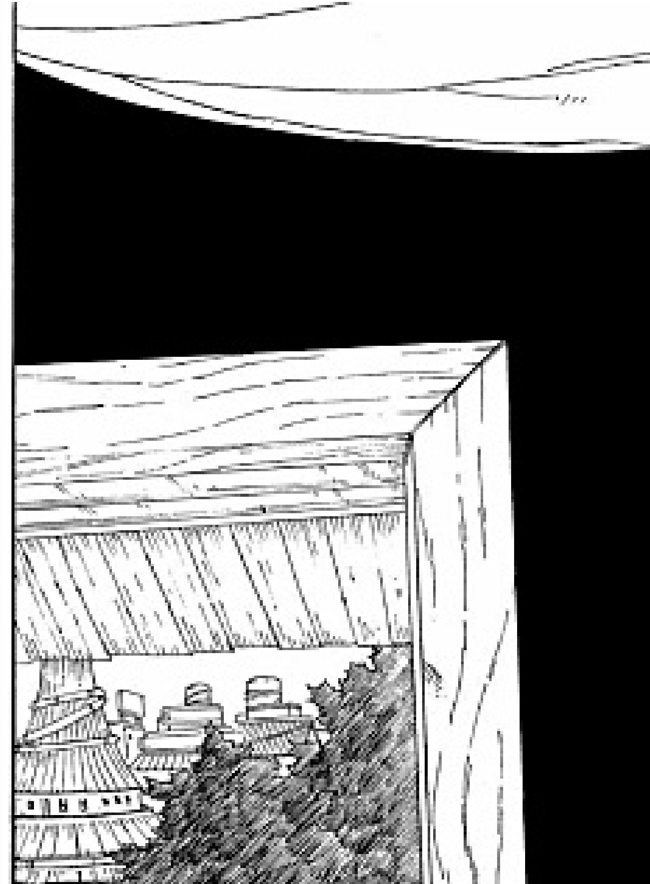



TSUNADE ...
!

WE NEED TO TALK.
COME WITH ME, PLEASE.
...





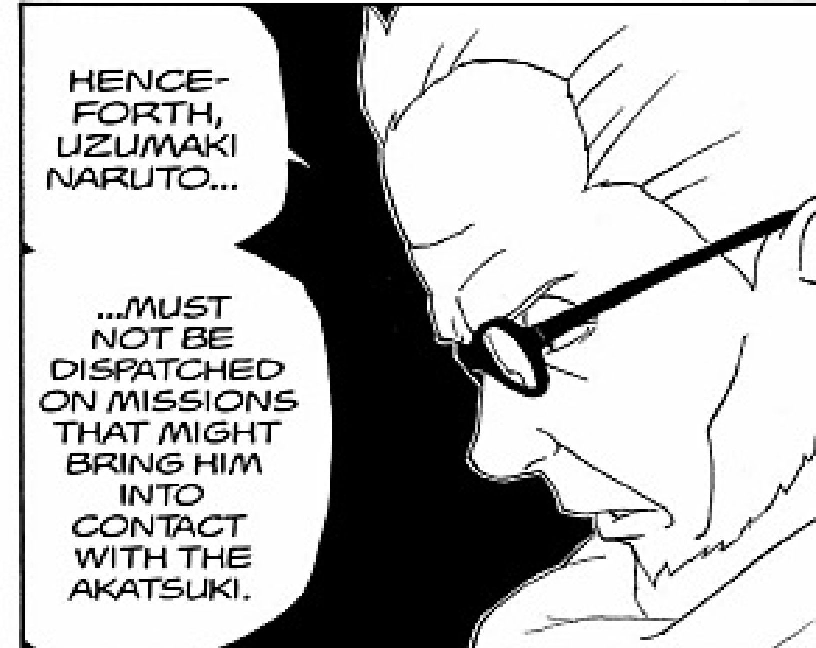




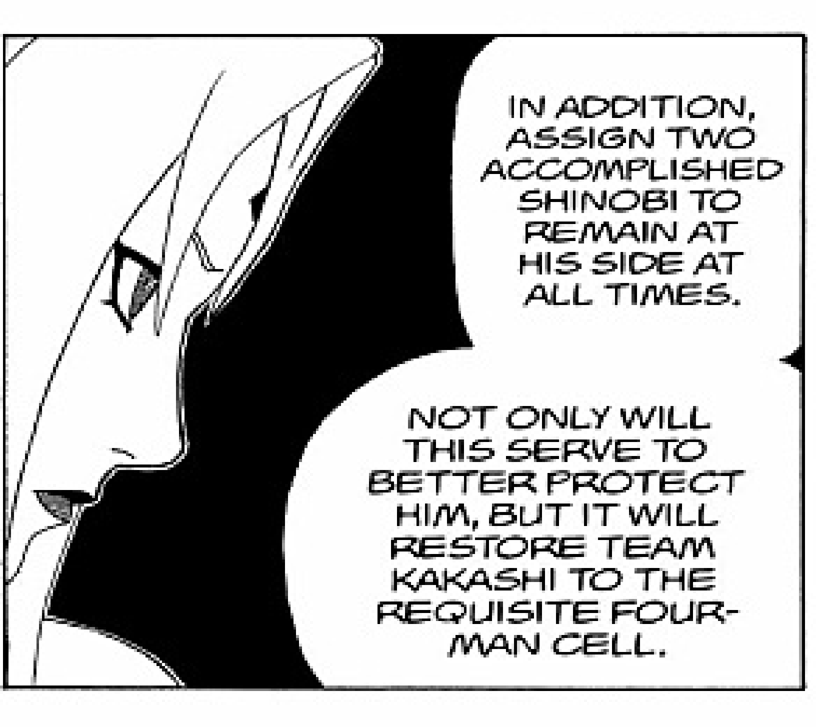
ACTU-
ALLY...
...WE HAVE BEEN RECEIVING PERIODIC REPORTS FROM SHIZUNE.



...

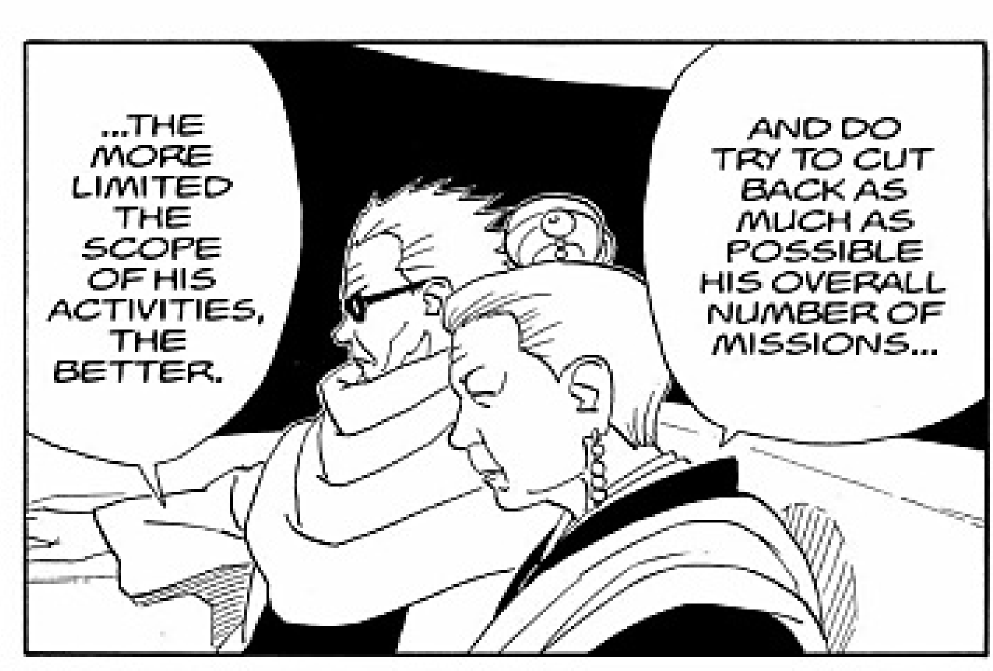


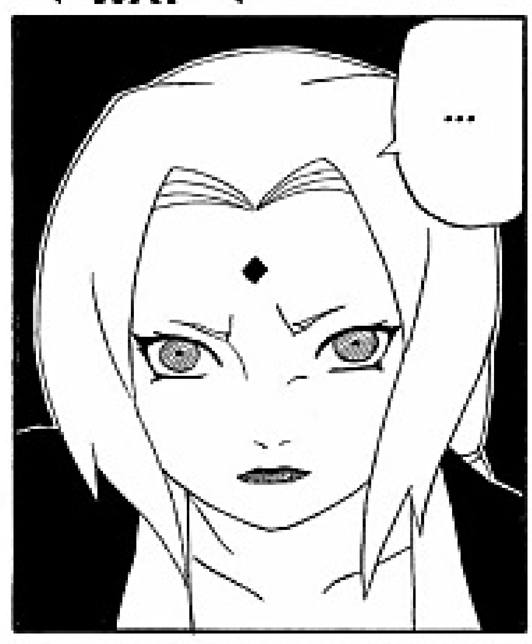
HENCE-
FORTH, UZUMAKI NARUTO...
...MUST NOT BE DISPATCHED ON MISSIONS THAT MIGHT BRING HIM INTO CONTACT WITH THE AKATSUKI.



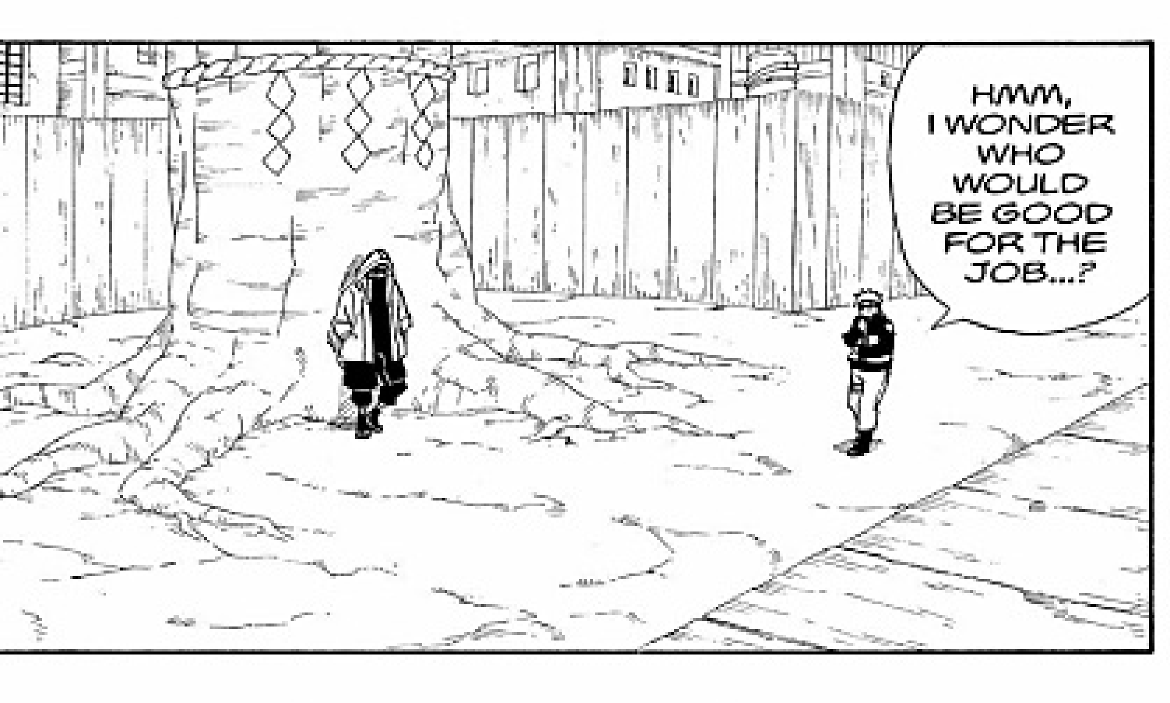
IN ADDITION, ASSIGN TWO ACCOMPLISHED SHINOBI TO REMAIN AT HIS SIDE AT ALL TIMES.
NOT ONLY WILL THIS SERVE TO BETTER PROTECT HIM, BUT IT WILL RESTORE TEAM KAKASHI TO THE REQUISITE FOUR-MAN CELL.


READ THIS WAY


AND DO TRY TO CUT BACK AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE HIS OVERALL NUMBER OF MISSIONS...
...THE MORE LIMITED THE SCOPE OF HIS ACTIVITIES, THE BETTER.


...


CRUNCH


HMM, I WONDER WHO WOULD BE GOOD FOR THE JOB...?


LONG TIME NO SEE, NARUTO...
?


DO I... KNOW YOU?

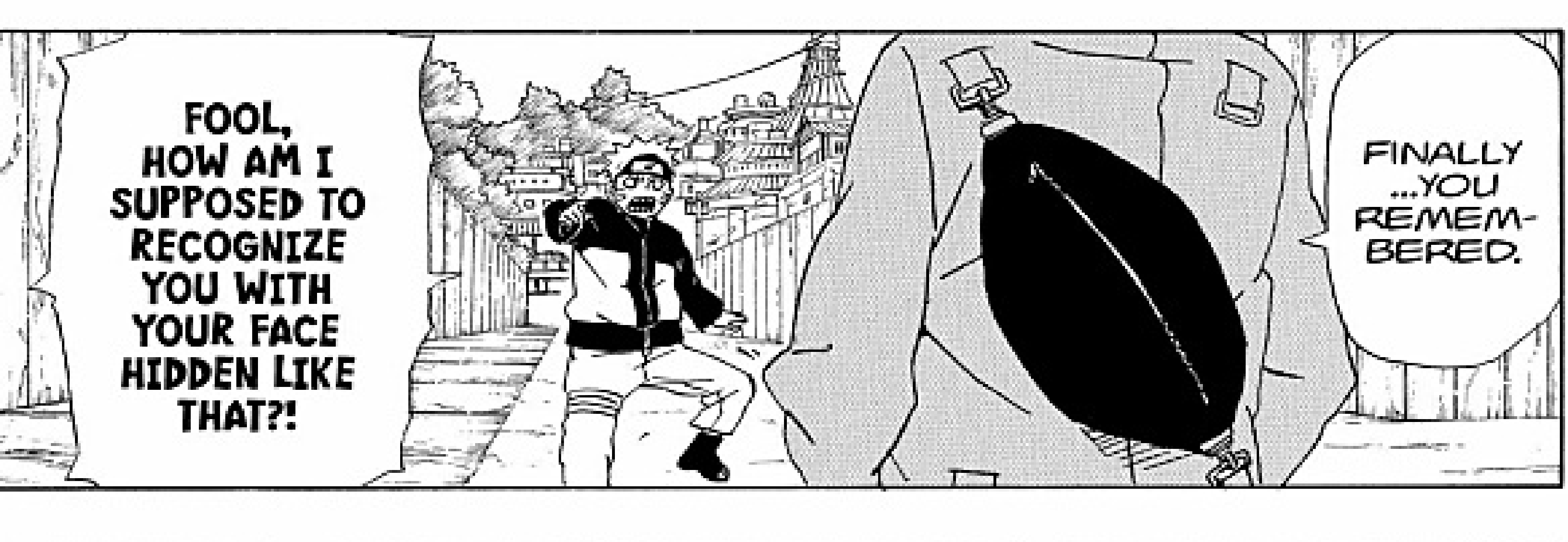

IT'S ME!
LIKE I SAID, ***DO I KNOW YOU?***
FWIP


...HEY, I KNOW IT'S BEEN A WHILE...
...BUT YOU SHOULD AT LEAST TRY TO REMEM-BER YOUR FRIENDS, YOU KNOW.
OR ELSE... IT JUST HURTS THE OTHER PERSON'S FEELINGS.


READ THIS WAY


...


I KNOW THAT IRRITATING VOICE!
DON'T TELL ME...
SHINO ?!

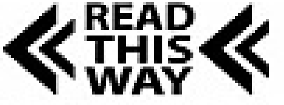

FINALLY ...YOU REMEMBERED.
FOOL, HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO RECOGNIZE YOU WITH YOUR FACE HIDDEN LIKE THAT?!


SHINO, YOU'RE EARLY!
RUSTLE...


!

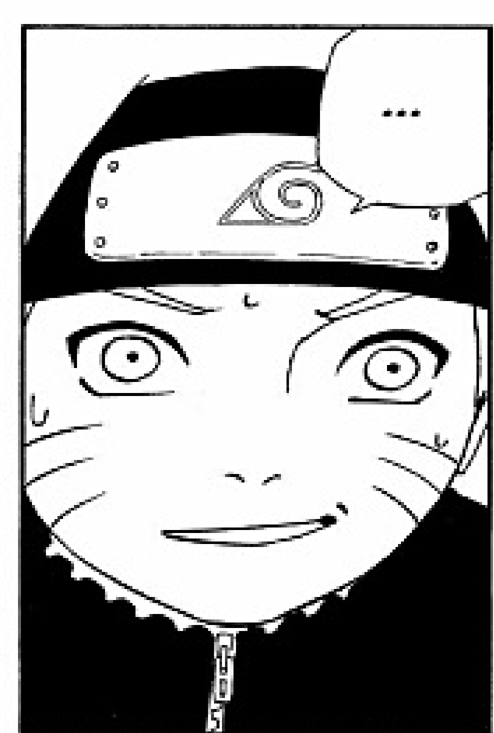

WHOMMP

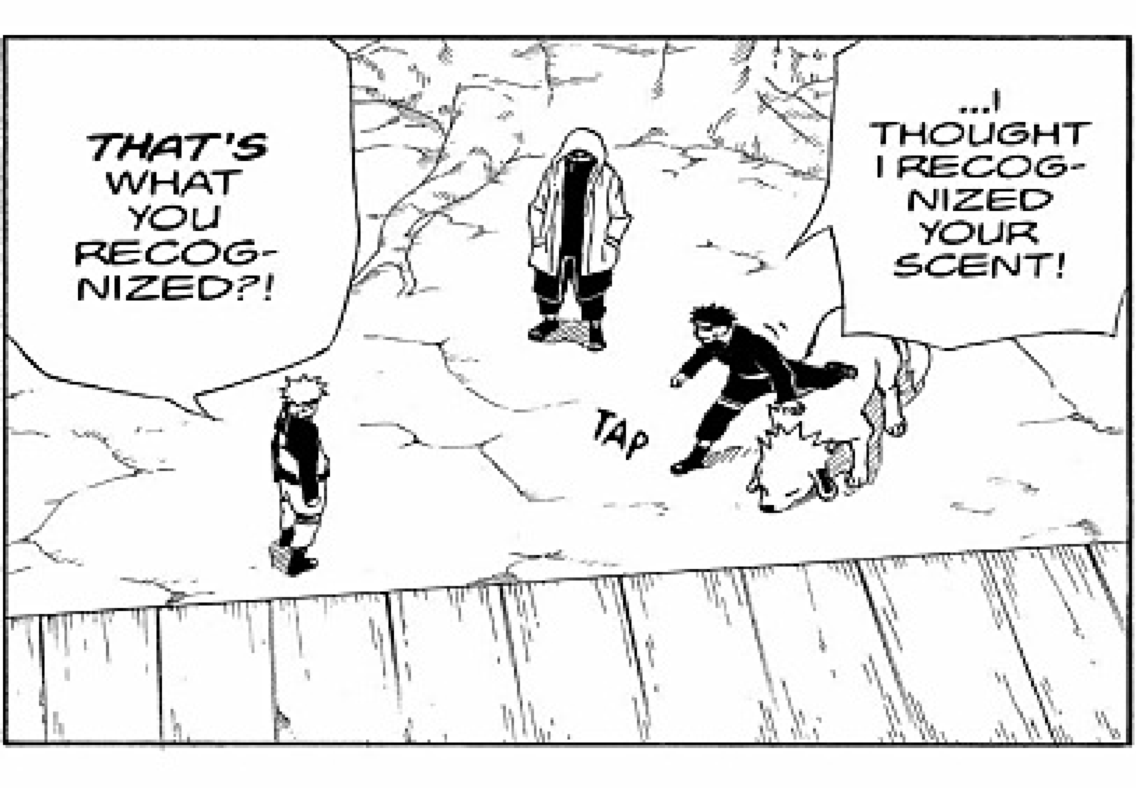

!
白土通り


READ THIS WAY

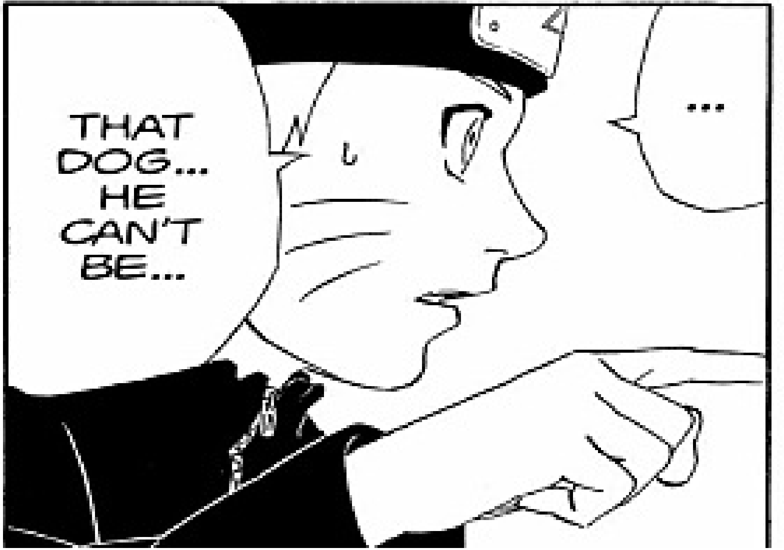

...
K... KIBA?


HEY!
NARUTO, IT WAS YOU, AFTER ALL!


...


...I THOUGHT I RECOG-NIZED YOUR SCENT!
TAP
THAT'S WHAT YOU RECOG-NIZED?!

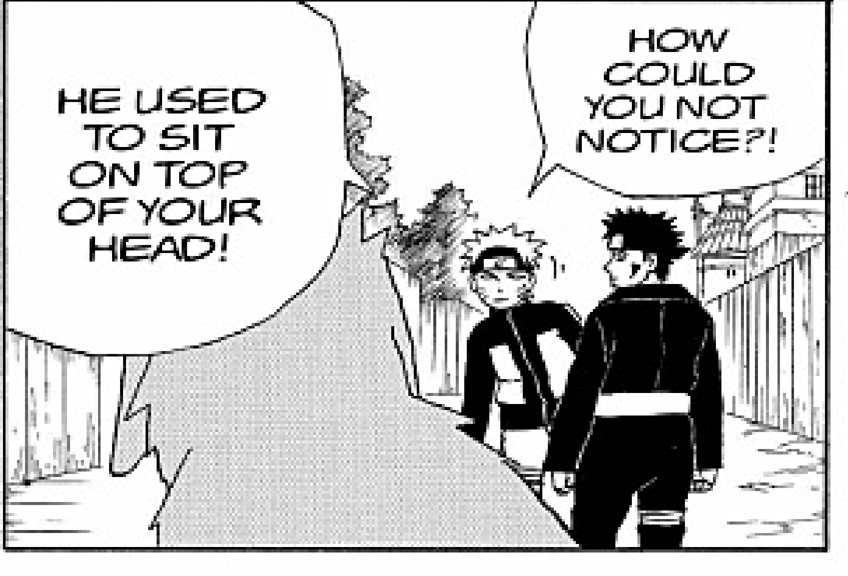

WOOF!!

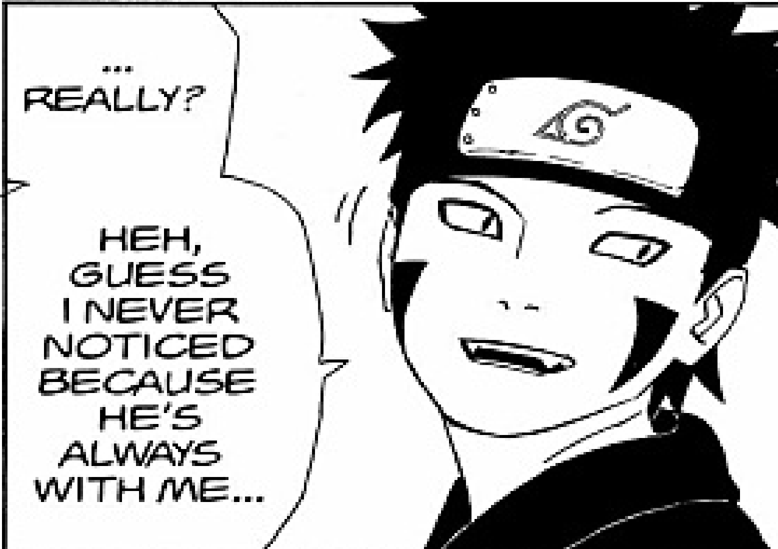

...
THAT DOG... HE CAN'T BE...

COME ON!
OF COURSE IT'S AKAMARU!










READ THIS WAY


RIGHT, SHINO?
...


YOU RECOG-NIZED KIBA RIGHT AWAY...
... NARUTO.


...SHOOT ...NOW HE'S MAD AT ME...
...


EEK!


!


...


HUF
BA-DUMP
HUF
HUF
BA-DUMP

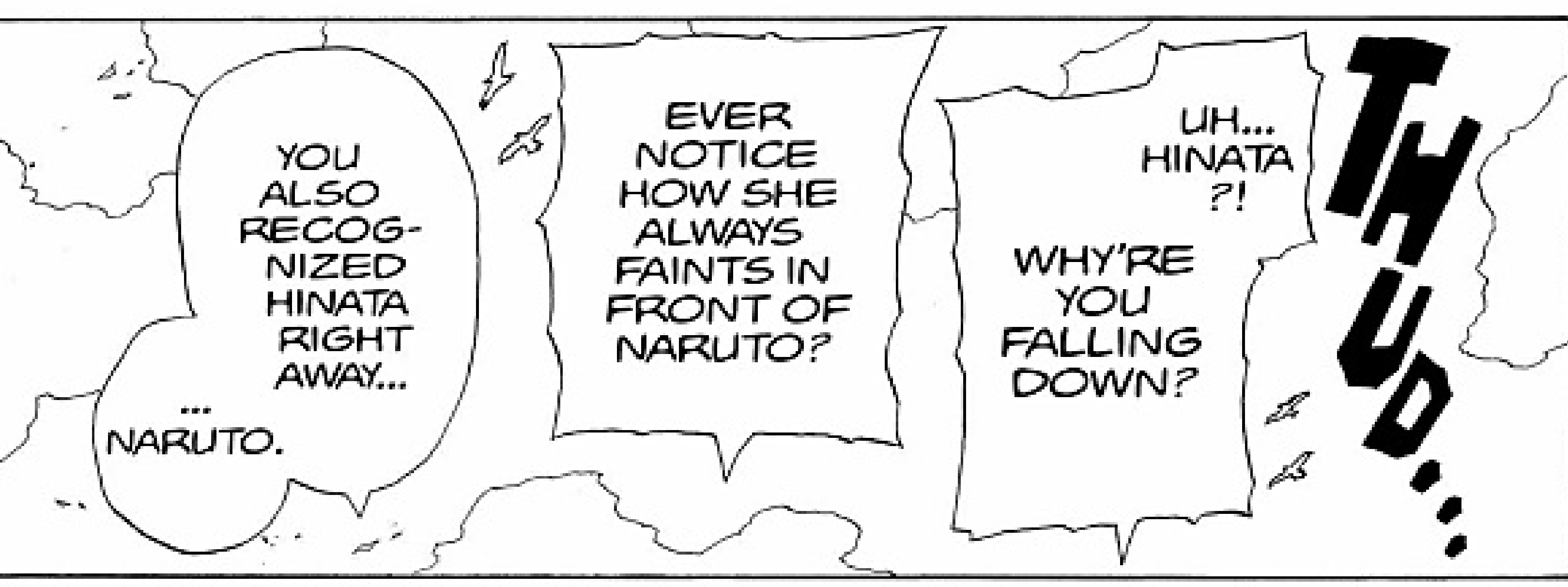

READ
THIS
WAY

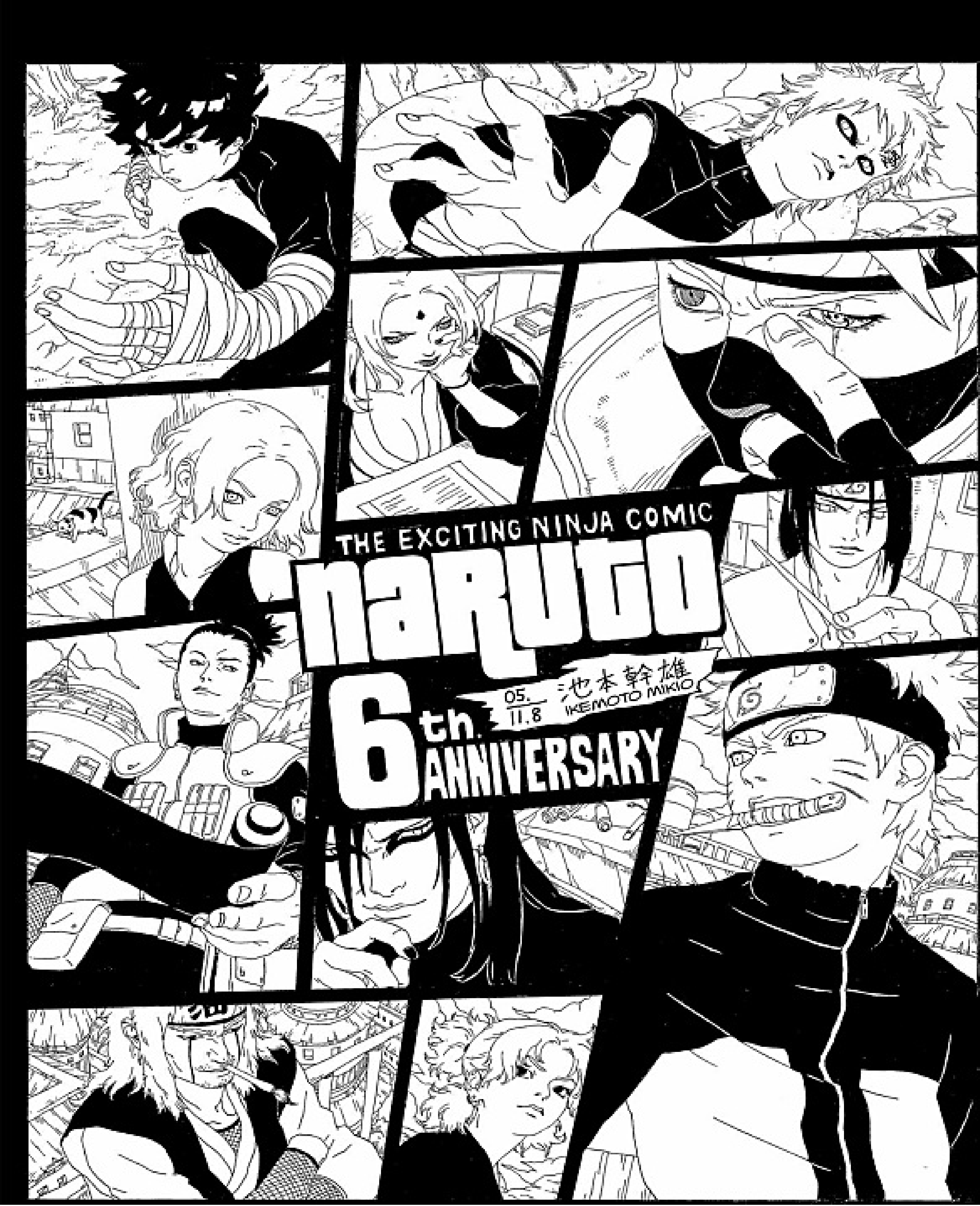

W...WAS THAT REALLY NARUTO ...?!


I HEARD HE'D RETURNED, BUT...
OH DEAR... I'M NOT PREPARED...
I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM IN THREE YEARS, SO... WHAT DO I EVEN SAY TO HIM...? UM... UM...


OH, IT'S YOU, HINATA!
ARE YOU HIDING OVER HERE?
POP...

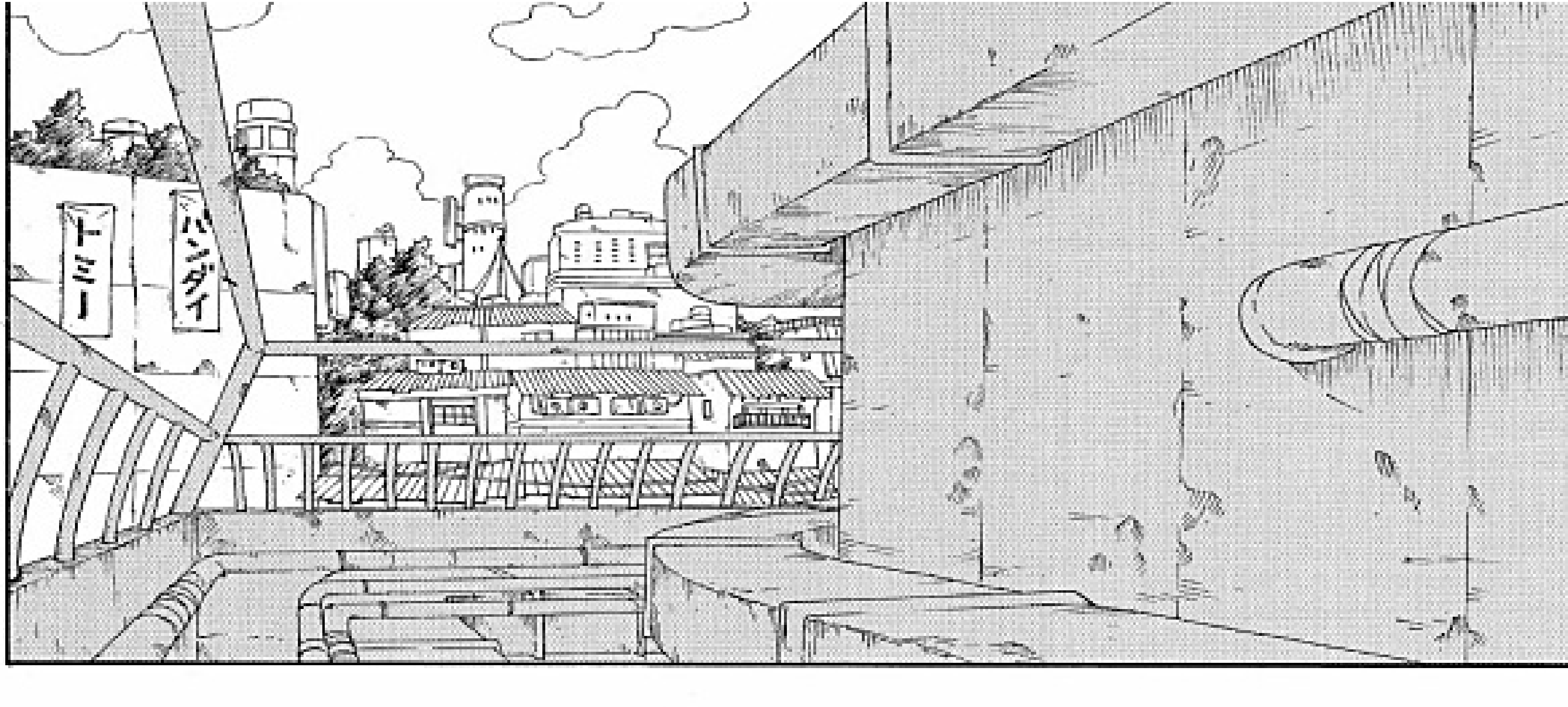

...


THUD...
UH... HINATA ?!
WHY'RE YOU FALLING DOWN?
EVER NOTICE HOW SHE ALWAYS FAINTS IN FRONT OF NARUTO?
YOU ALSO RECOG-NIZED HINATA RIGHT AWAY...
... NARUTO.

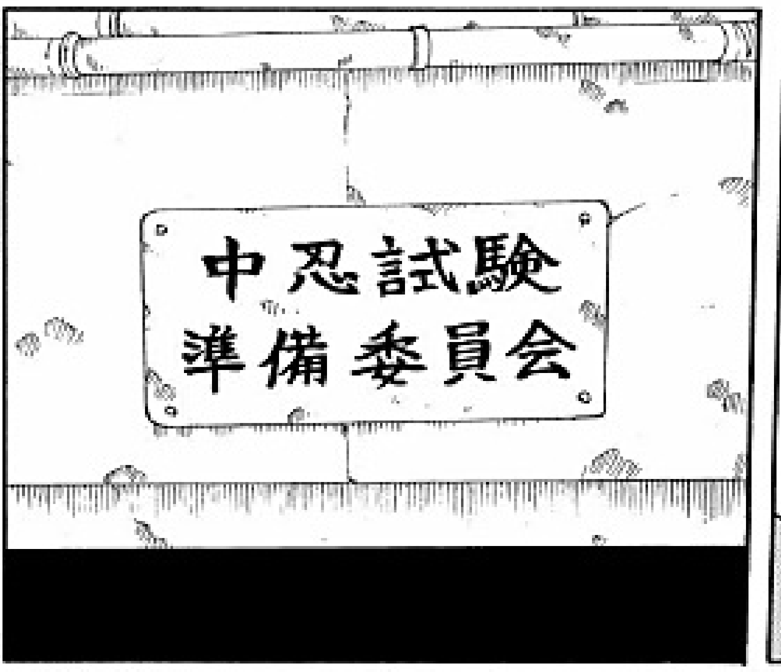


THE EXCITING NINJA COMIC
NARUTO
6th. ANNIVERSARY
05. 11.8
池本幹雄
IKEMOTO MIKIO


Number 283:
Team Members Wanted!!







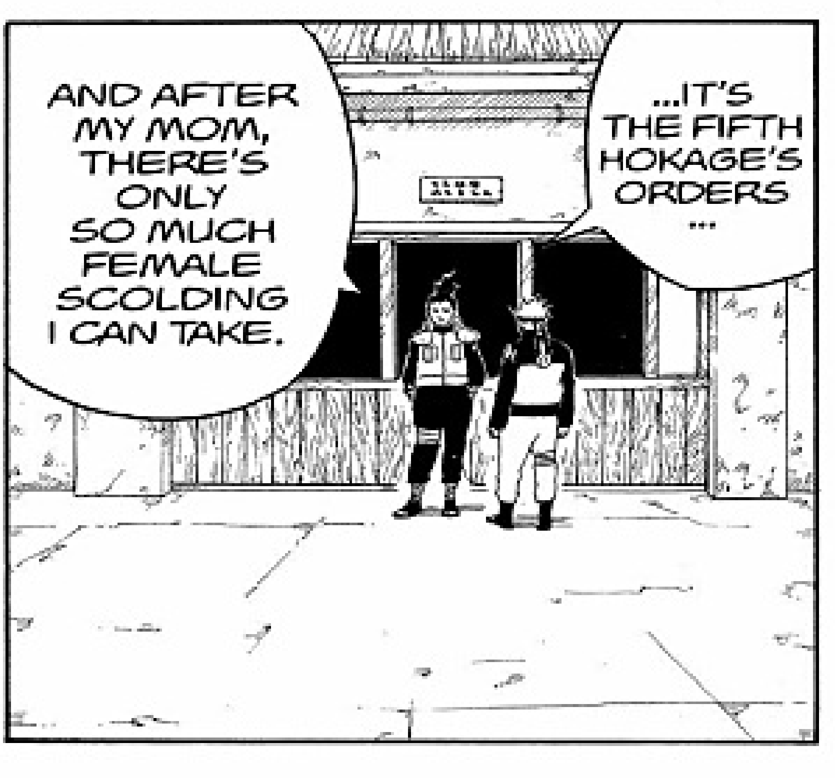


(SIGN: CHŪNIN EXAM PLANNING COMMITTEE)


READ THIS WAY


...I TOLD YOU...
IT'S A HUGE BOTHER, BUT I'M ON THE STAFF FOR THE CHÛNIN EXAM.


I MEAN... I KNOW WE GO WAY BACK...
...AND I REALLY DO WANT TO HELP YOU OUT, BUT...
...I'M NOT IN A POSITION WHERE I CAN JUST DO WHATEVER I LIKE.
YOU HAVE TO UNDER-STAND...


...IT'S THE FIFTH HOKAGE'S ORDERS...
AND AFTER MY MOM, THERE'S ONLY SO MUCH FEMALE SCOLDING I CAN TAKE.

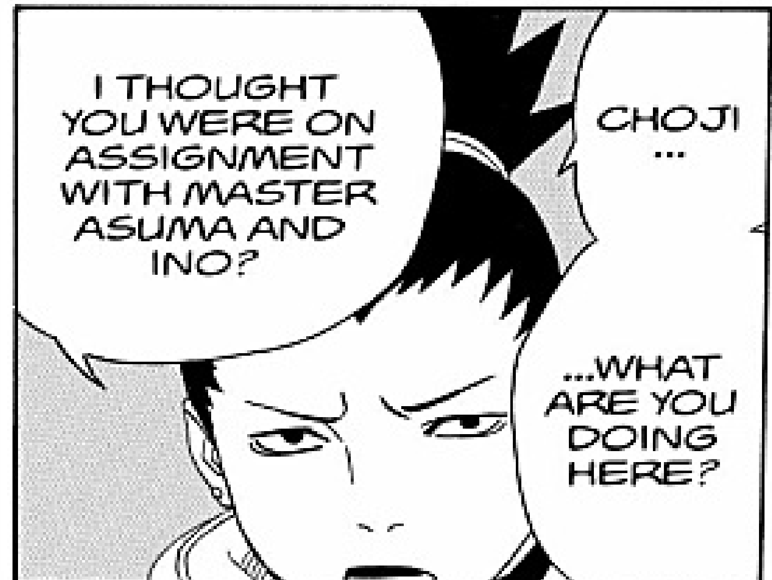

THEN ALLOW ME TO PICK UP THE SLACK.
!


!


HEY, SHIKA-MARU!
HERE'S THAT LUNCH BOX YOUR MOM ASKED ME TO DELIVER.
KRUNCH











I'M TELLING YOU...IT'S USELESS TO ASK ASUMA...

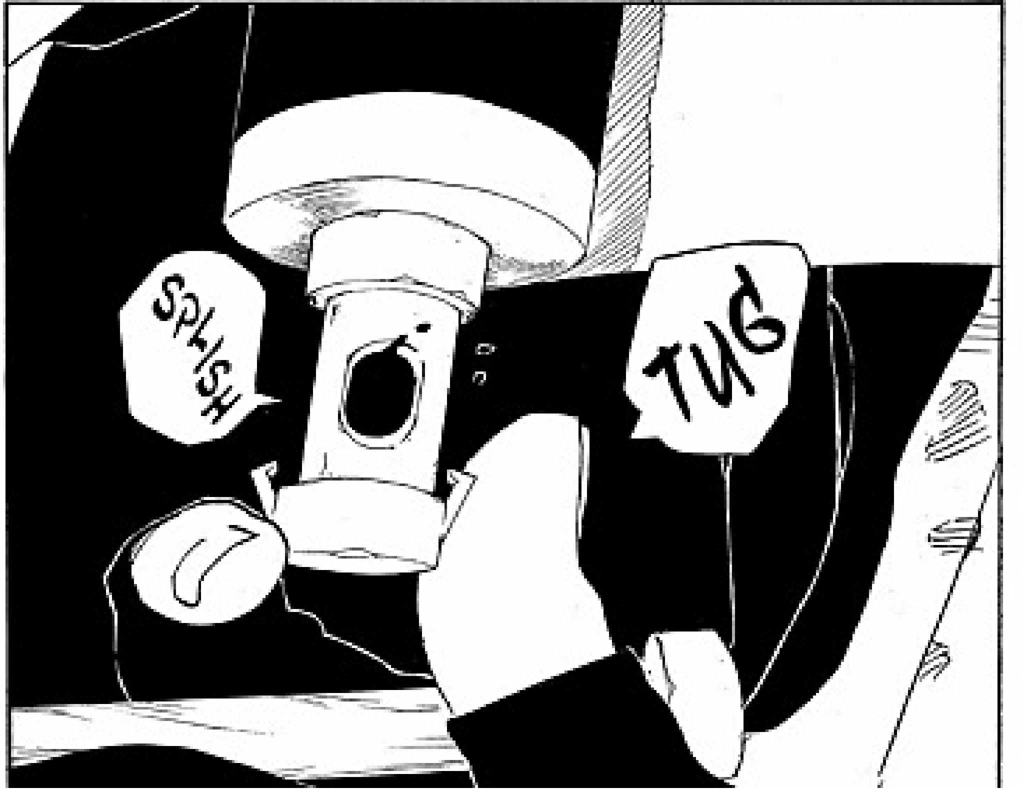
...LADY TSUNADE IS STILL HIS SUPERIOR ...


PLIP


SQUIK SQUIK




WHIRL


TUG
SPLISH


KLIK





DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS POSSIBLE, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE EVEN GAINED WEIGHT.

!

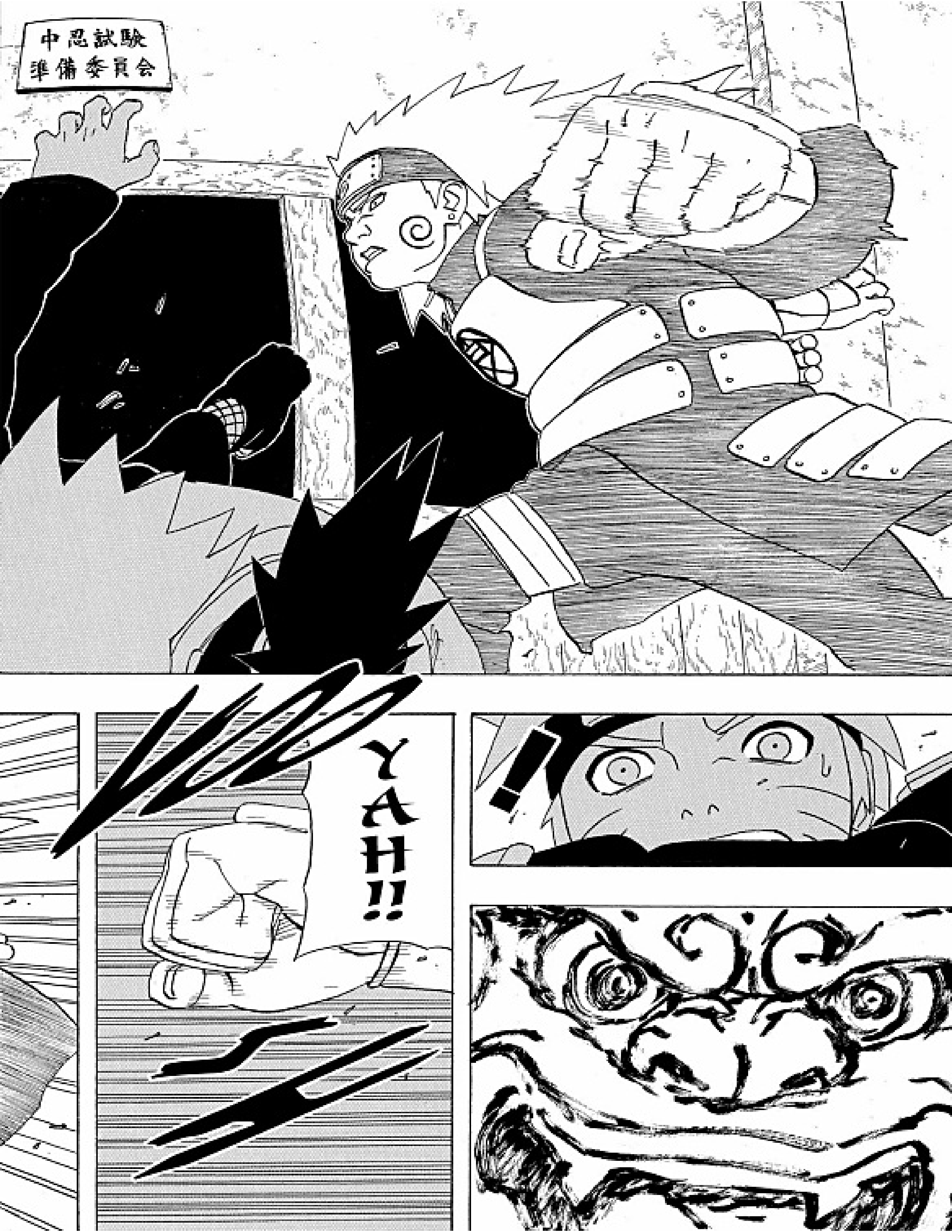
!

FLAP

HEY...!!

BOOF


BAMM!!

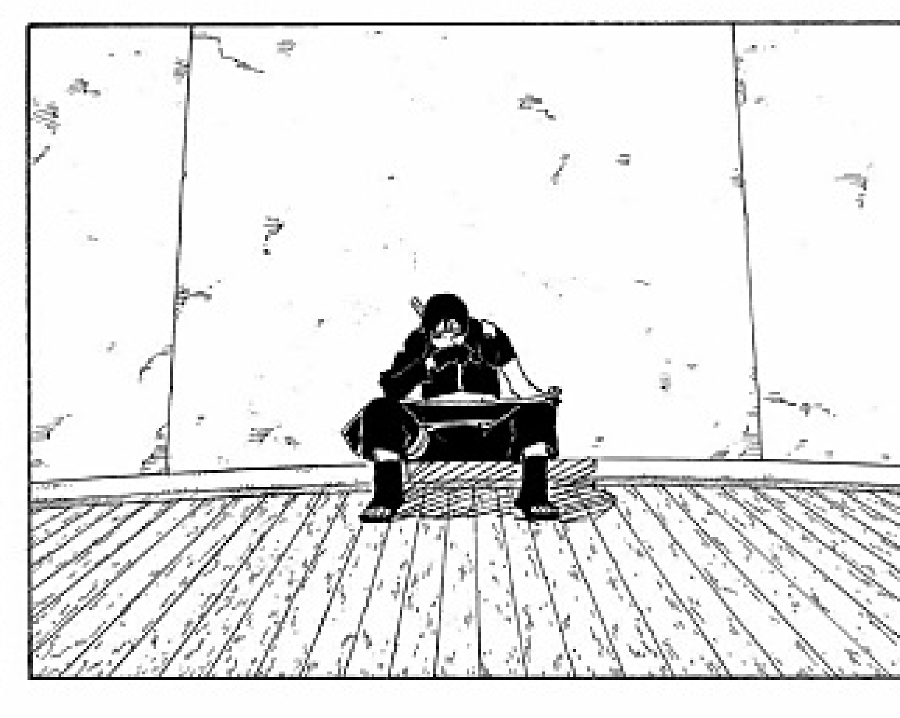

中忍試験
準備委員会
YAH!!
!

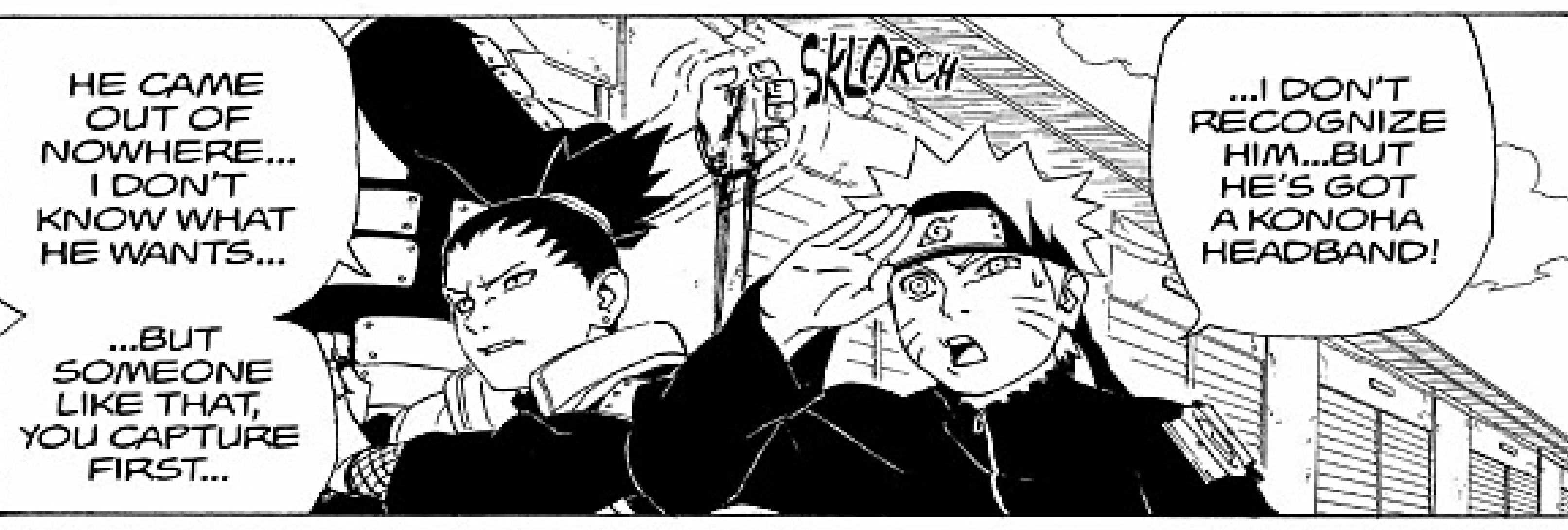

SPLOOSH
SPLATTER
!
LEAP

GRAB
SPLISH
SQUISH
DRIP DRIP...
!
LOOK! OVER THERE ...





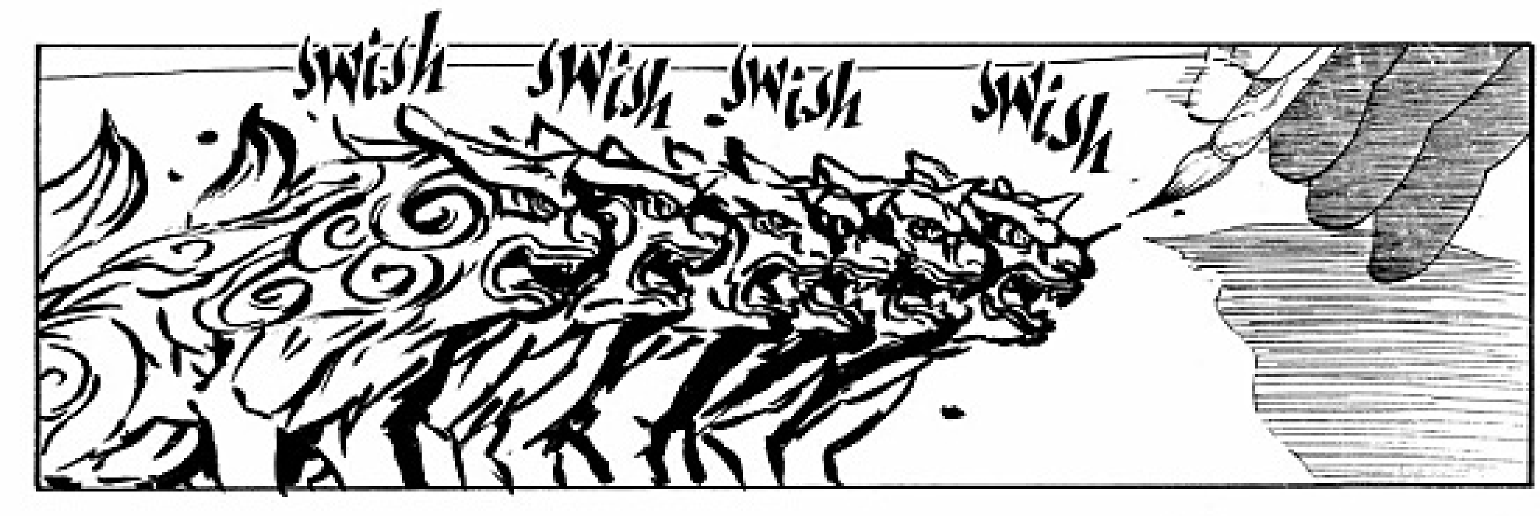


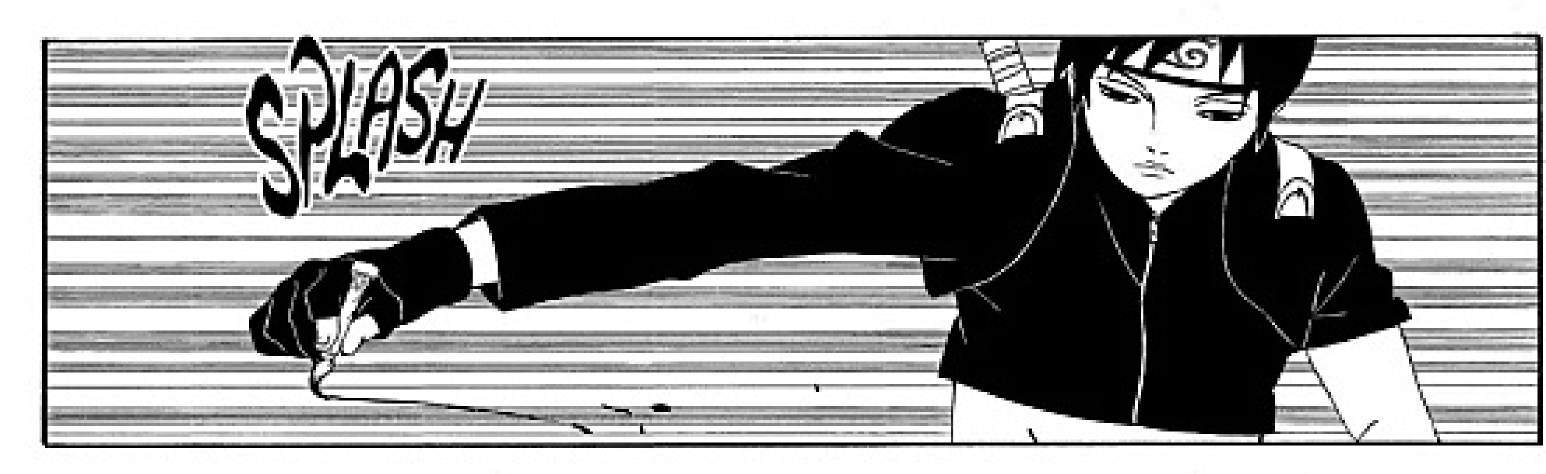

...I DON'T RECOGNIZE HIM...BUT HE'S GOT A KONOHA HEADBAND!
SKLORCH
HE CAME OUT OF NOWHERE... I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE WANTS...
...BUT SOMEONE LIKE THAT, YOU CAPTURE FIRST...


READ THIS WAY


...AND THEN HAND OVER TO THE TORTURE AND INTERRO-GATION CORPS!


scritch...
splish


swish
swish
swish
swish


SPLASH

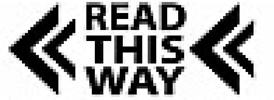

NARUTO, I'LL COVER YOU!
GO!


OK!


SHOOM!
THE ART OF CARTOON BEAST MIMICRY!!
FWIP


SWOOSH
!!


FOOSH
SHF


READ THIS WAY


FWIP

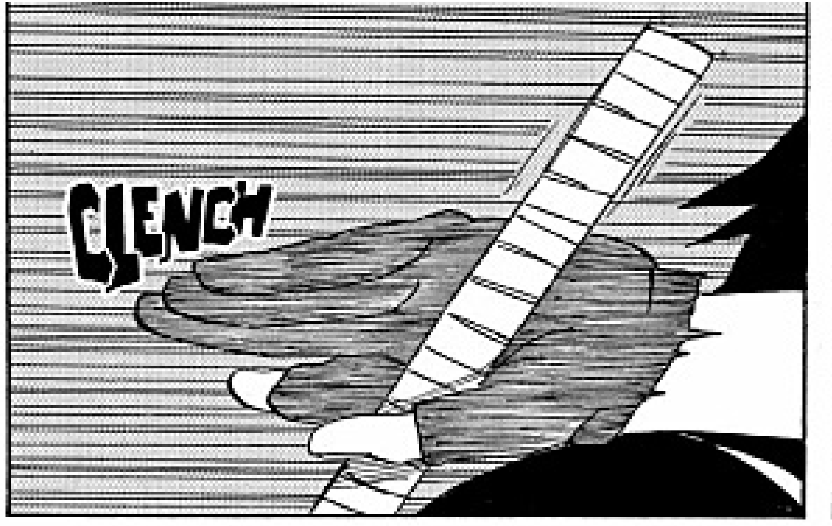

KEEP MOVING, NARUTO!

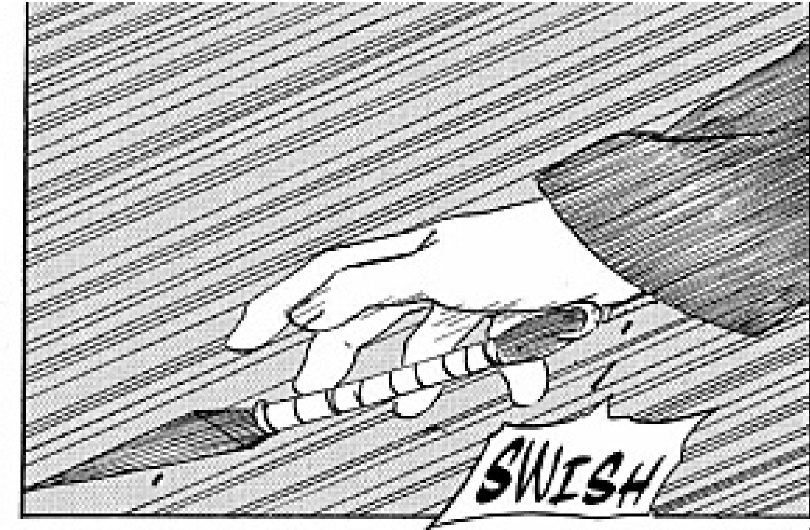

!


THE ART OF SHADOW STITCH-ING!!


VOOOSH


SPLOOSH
SPLOOSH
SPLOOSH
FWUMP
SPURT
SPLAT
SPLAT
FOOSH

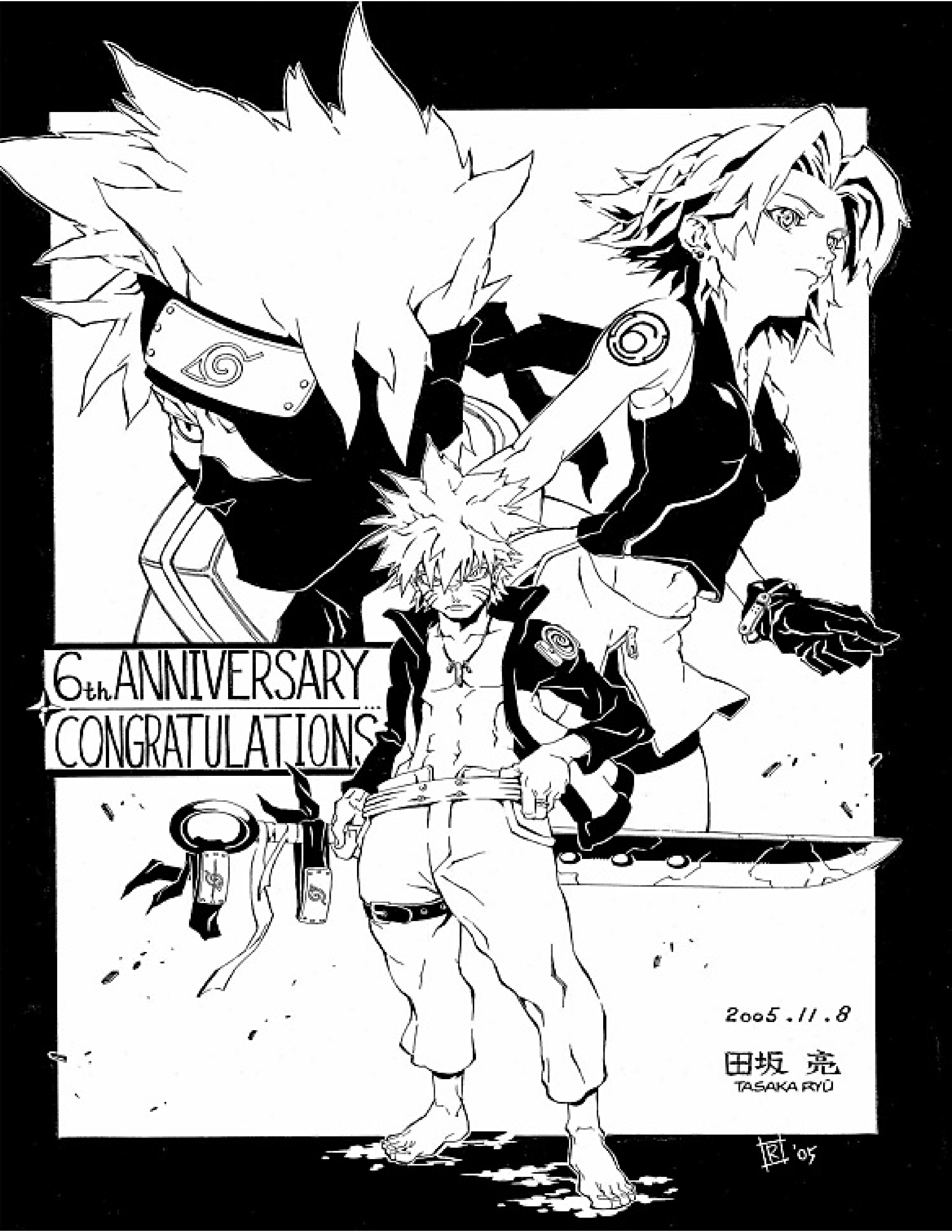

CLENCH


SWISH

KASHI


YOU'RE... PRETTY WEAK.
ARE YOU A BOY OR A GIRL?

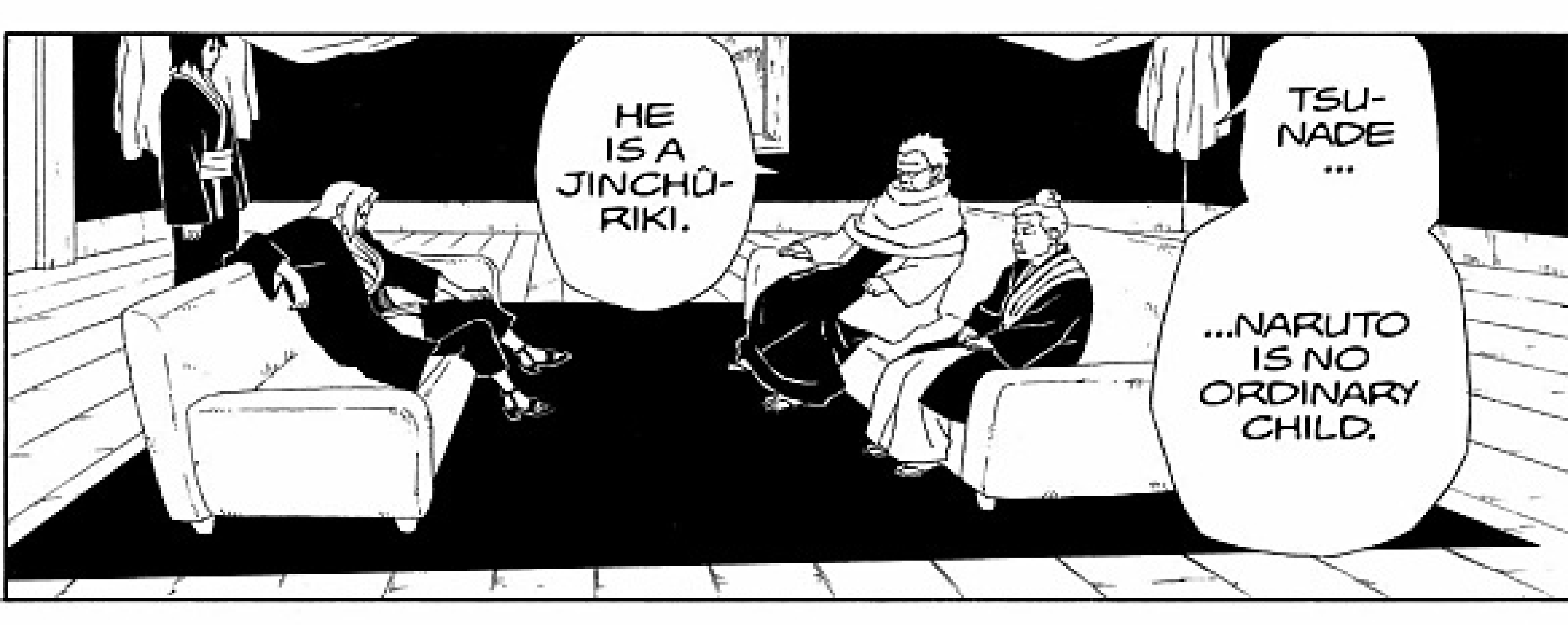

WHO... ARE YOU ...?!

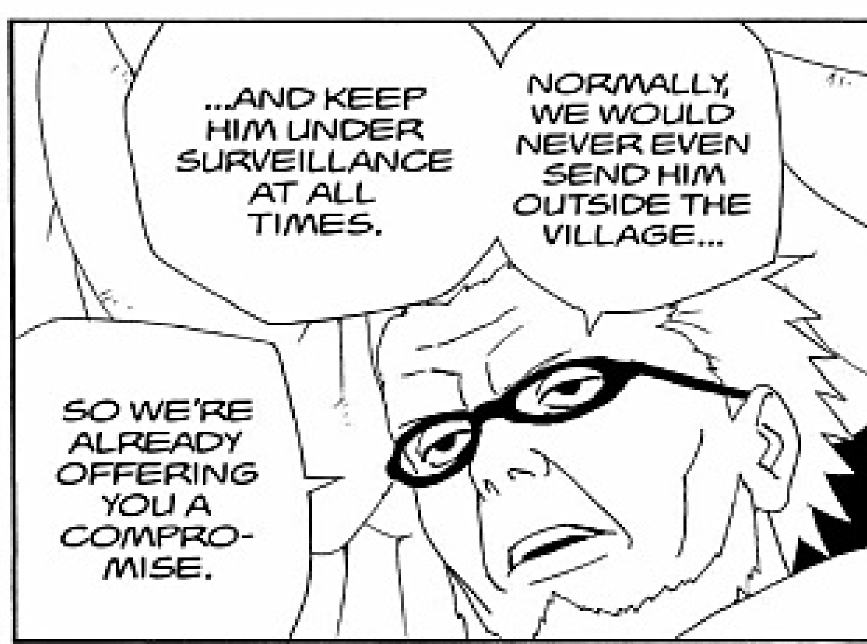

6th ANNIVERSARY
CONGRATULATIONS
2005.11.8
田坂 亮
TASAKA RYŪ
'05

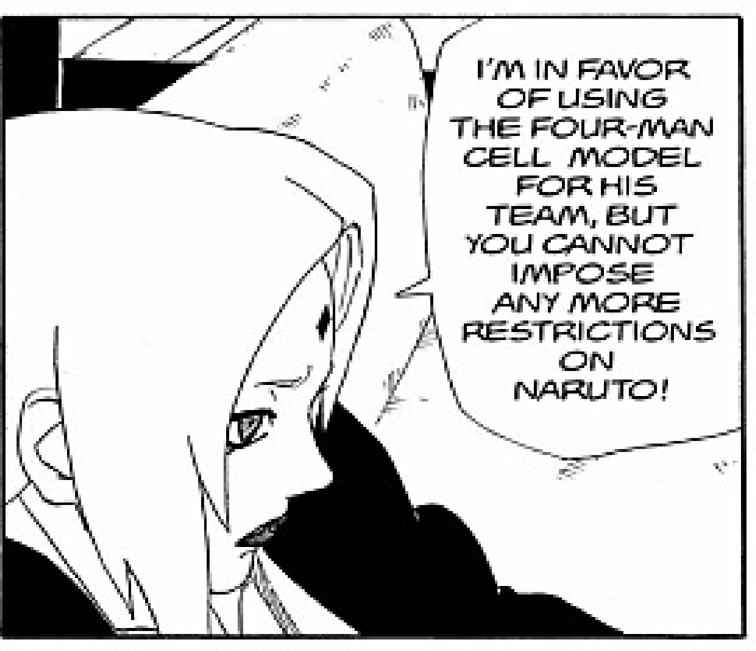
Number 284: The New Cell...!!



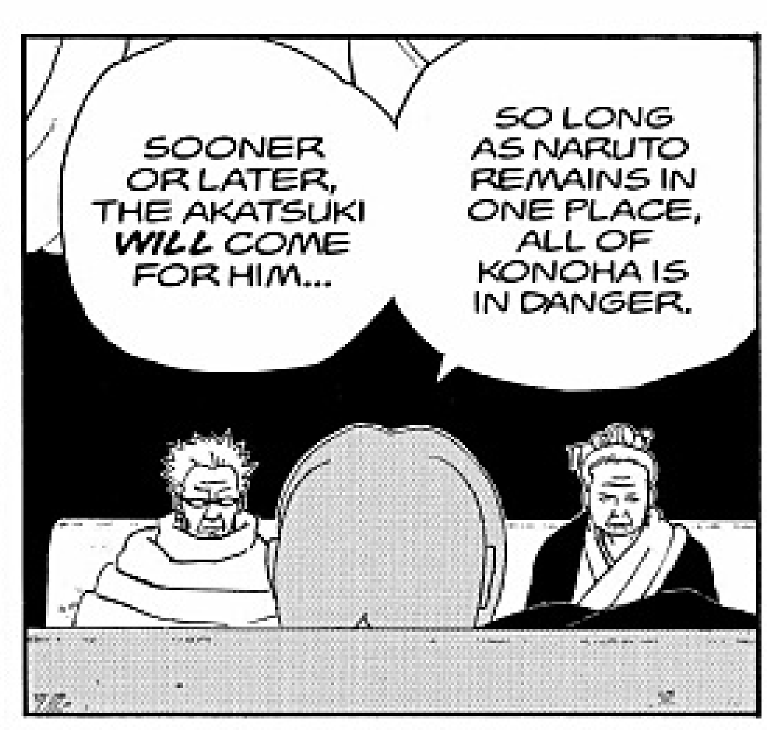
ABSOLUTELY NOT!

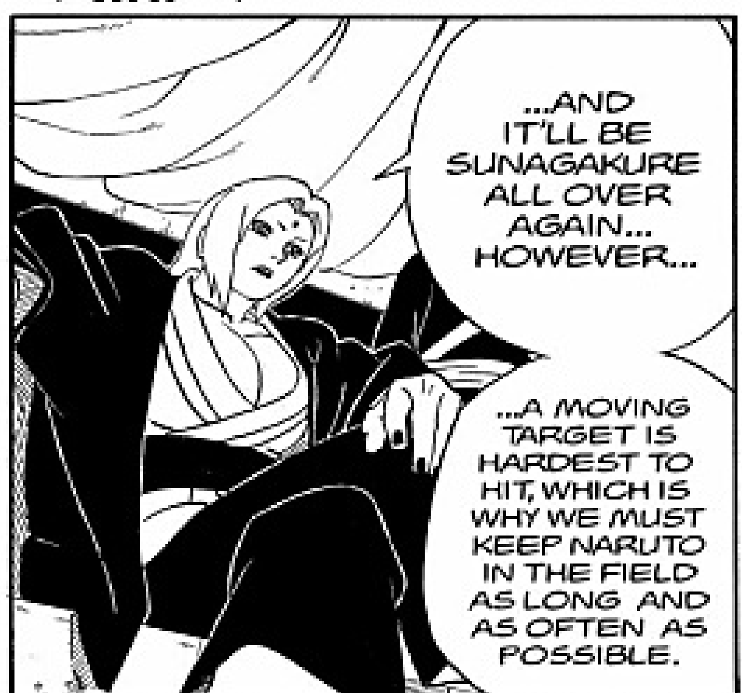




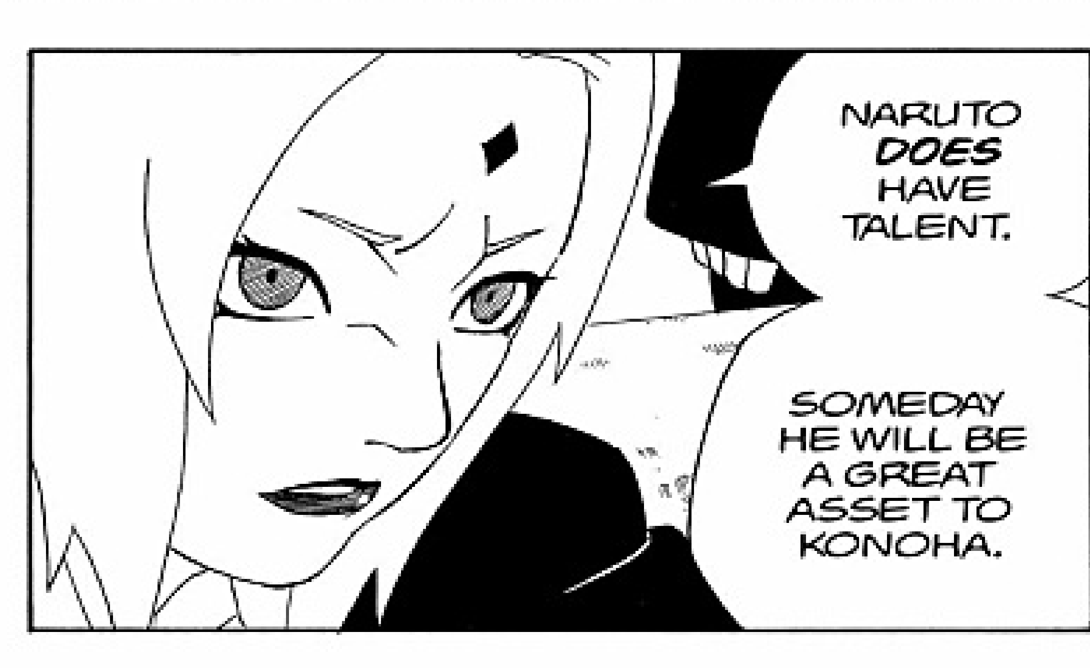


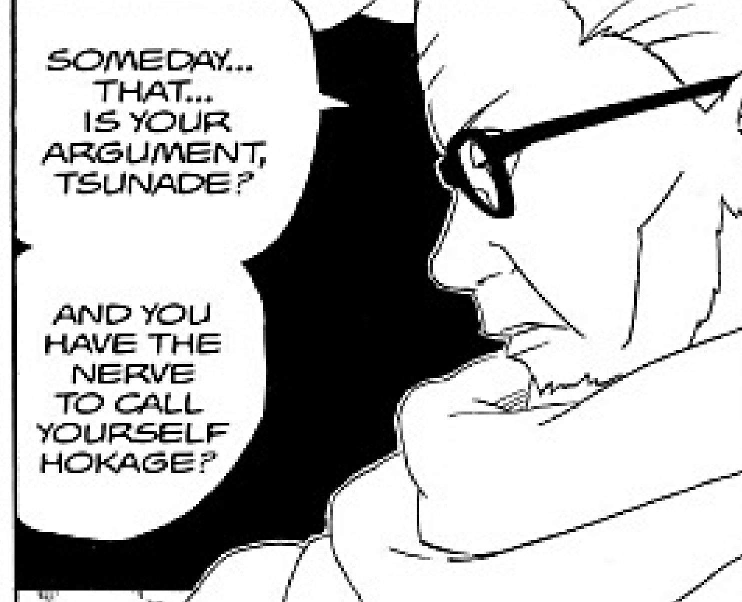

READ THIS WAY


SO LONG AS NARUTO REMAINS IN ONE PLACE, ALL OF KONOHA IS IN DANGER.
SOONER OR LATER, THE AKATSUKI WILL COME FOR HIM...


...AND IT'LL BE SUNAGAKURE ALL OVER AGAIN... HOWEVER...
...A MOVING TARGET IS HARDEST TO HIT, WHICH IS WHY WE MUST KEEP NARUTO IN THE FIELD AS LONG AND AS OFTEN AS POSSIBLE.

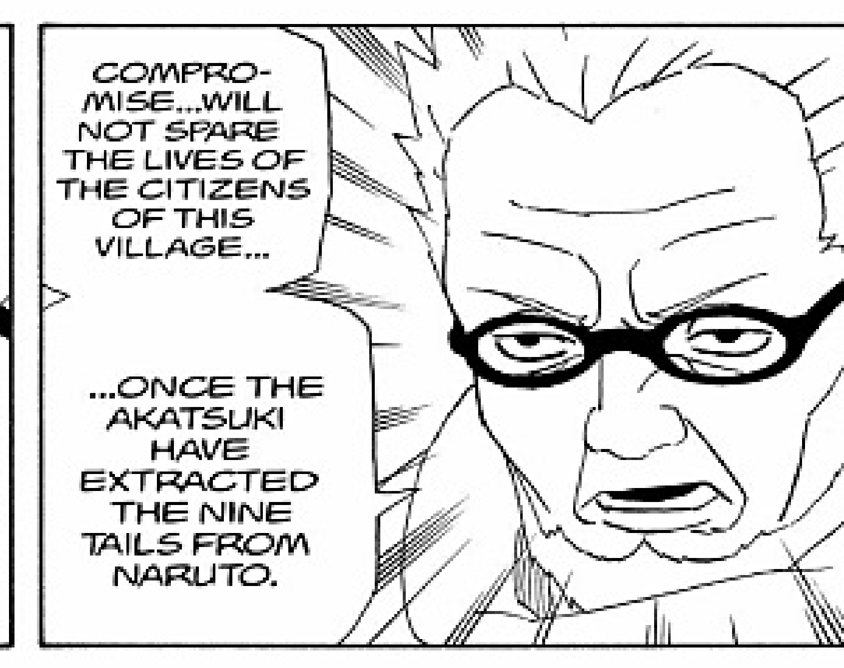

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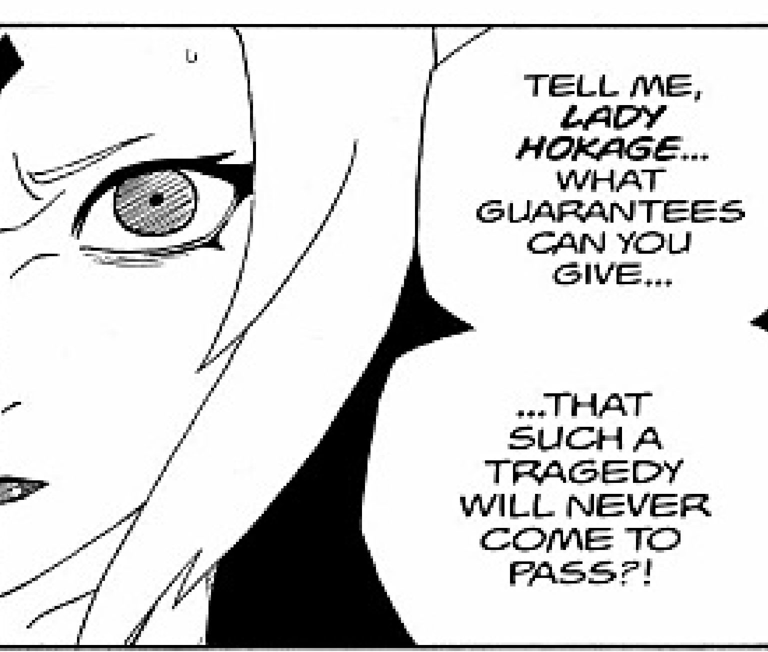

NARUTO DOES HAVE TALENT.
SOMEDAY HE WILL BE A GREAT ASSET TO KONOHA.

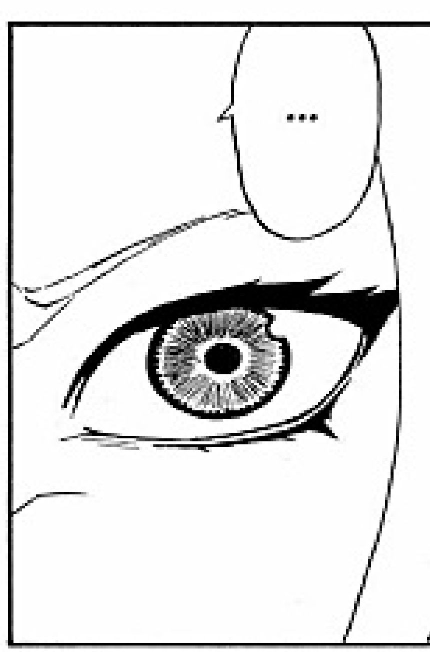

SOMEDAY... THAT... IS YOUR ARGUMENT, TSUNADE?
AND YOU HAVE THE NERVE TO CALL YOURSELF HOKAGE?


STOMP


LOOK! I'M TRYING TO COMPROMISE HERE, TOO!!


COMPROMISE...WILL NOT SPARE THE LIVES OF THE CITIZENS OF THIS VILLAGE...
...ONCE THE AKATSUKI HAVE EXTRACTED THE NINE TAILS FROM NARUTO.


TELL ME, *LADY HOKAGE*... WHAT GUARANTEES CAN YOU GIVE...
...THAT SUCH A TRAGEDY WILL NEVER COME TO PASS?!

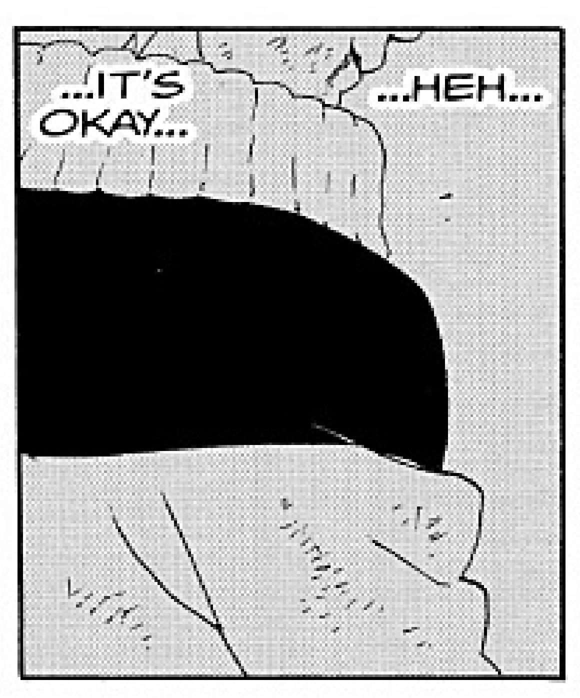

...


AS PROMISED IN OUR BET...
...THAT BAD LUCK NECKLACE AROUND YOUR NECK... I'M GONNA TAKE IT...

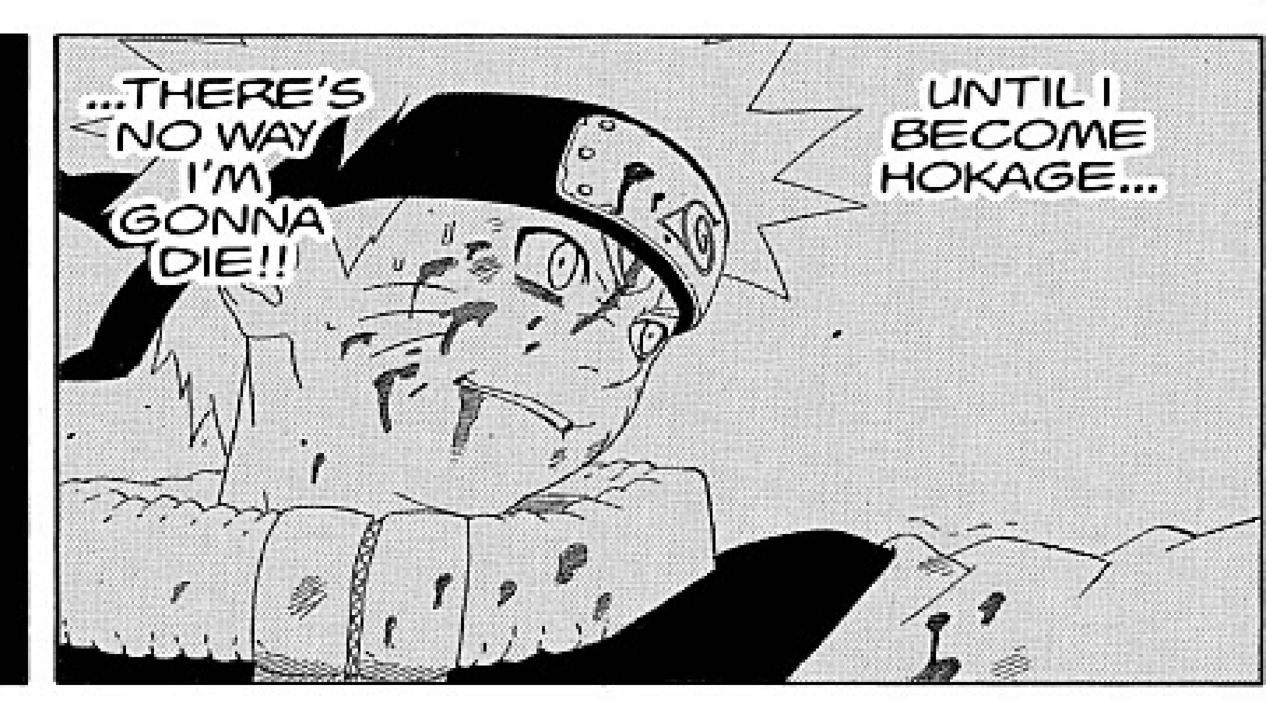

IF YOU DIE... EVERYTHING...
...DREAMS AND EVERYTHING ELSE IS GONE!!



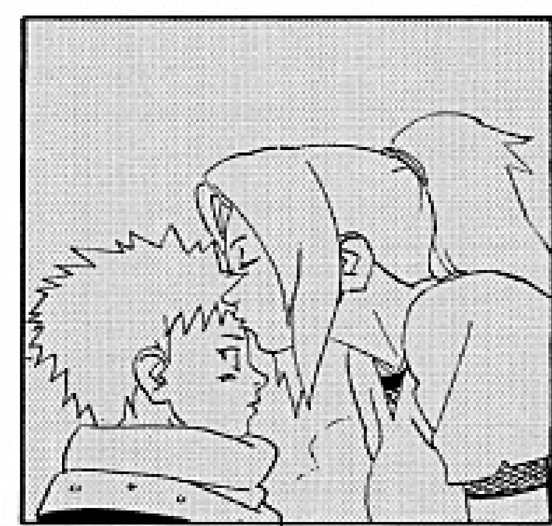




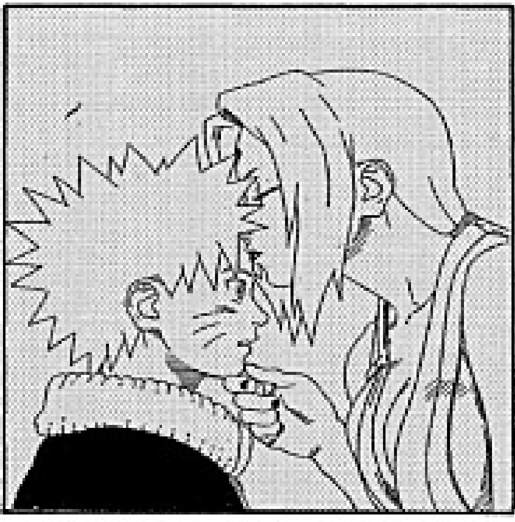




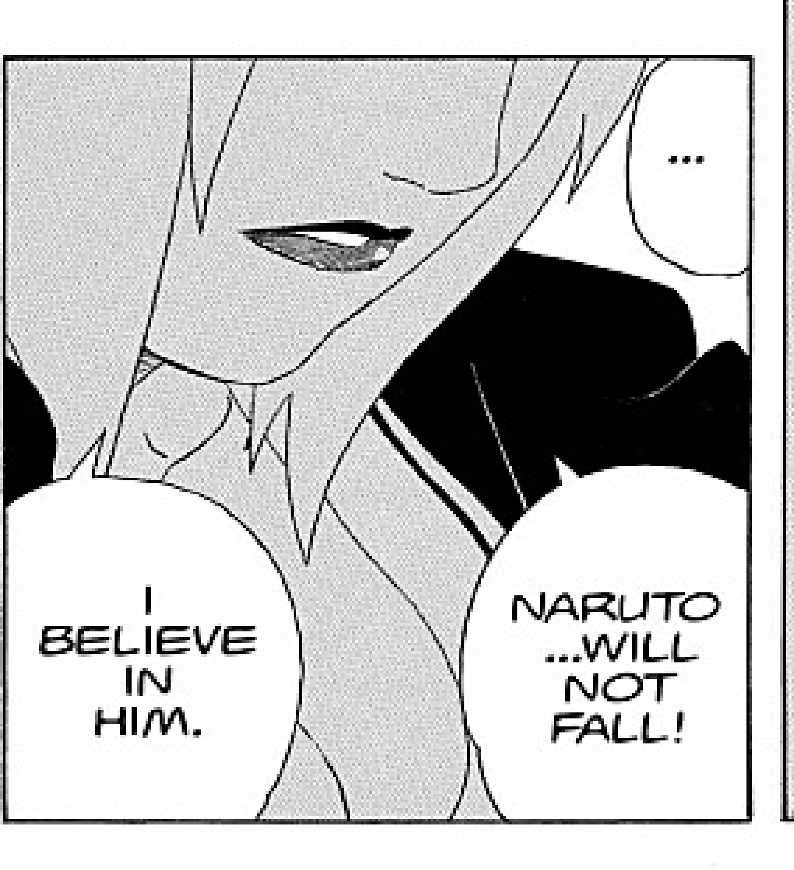
A CHARM TO MAKE YOUR DREAM COME TRUE.



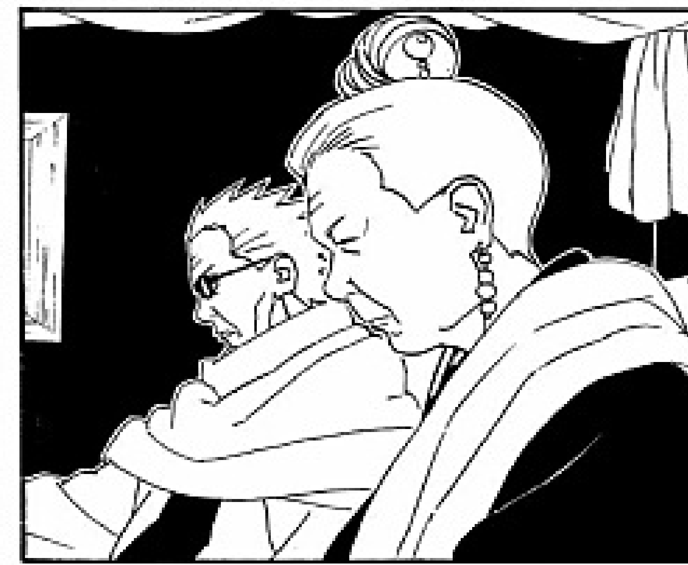


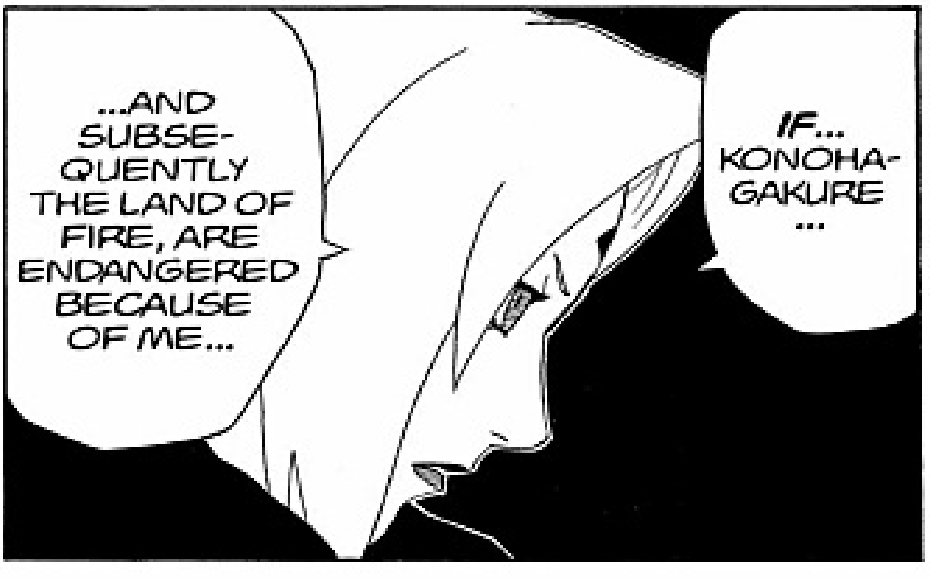


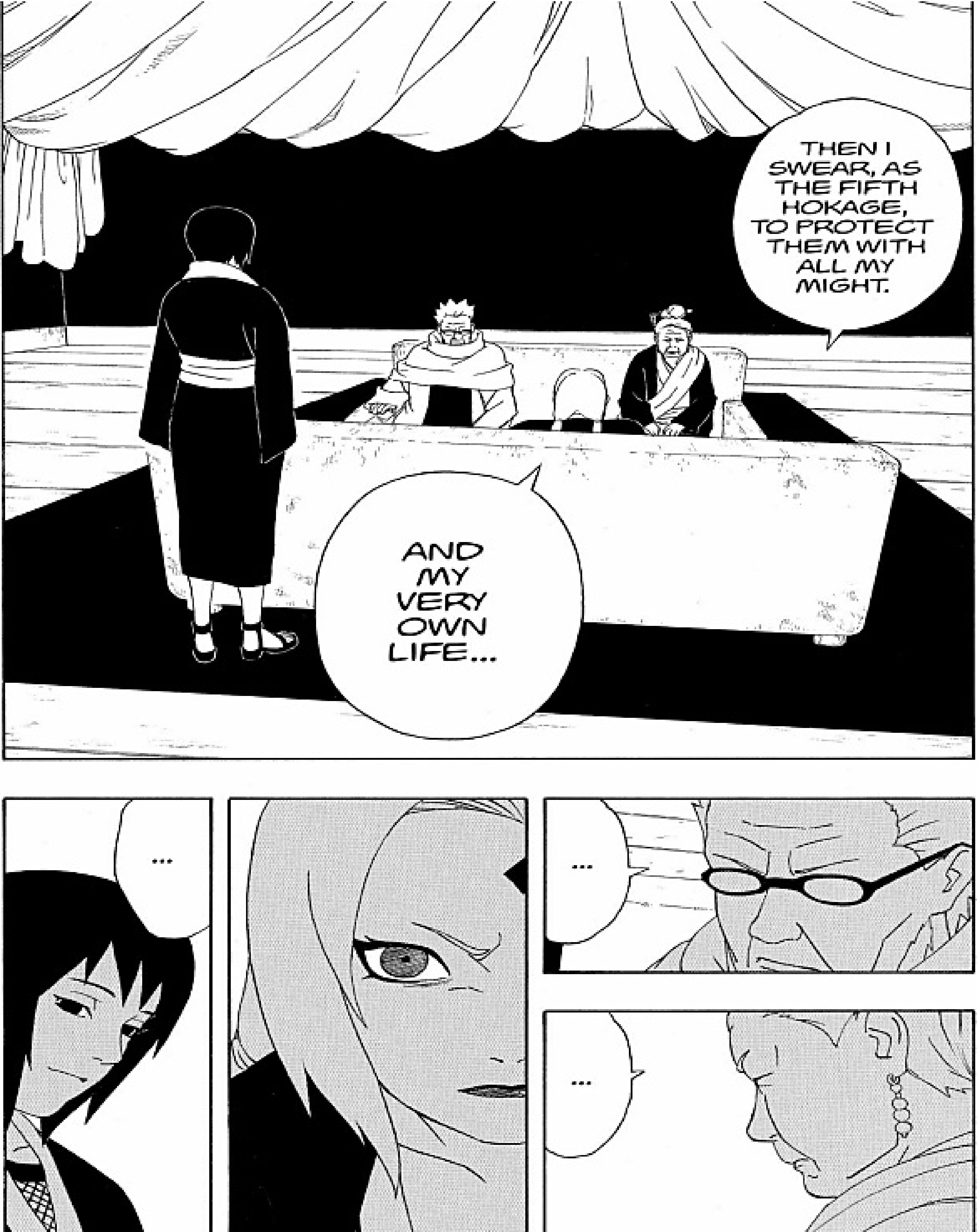



...
NARUTO ...WILL NOT FALL!
I BELIEVE IN HIM.


...
AND IF YOU ARE MISTAKEN ...?
WHAT THEN?

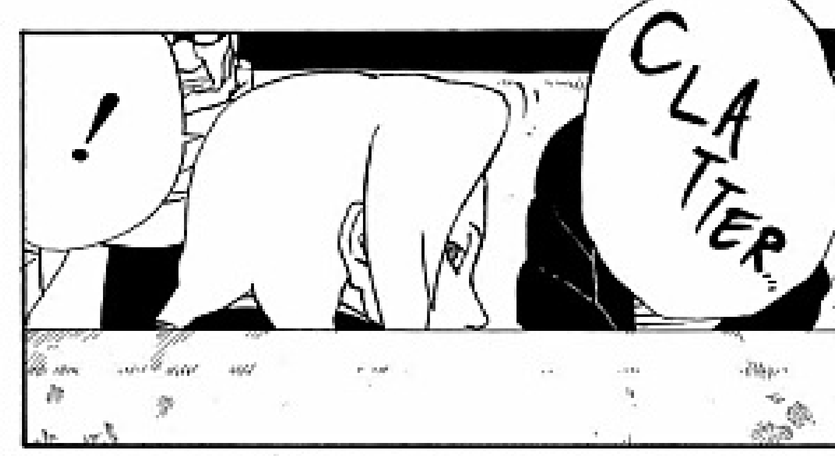


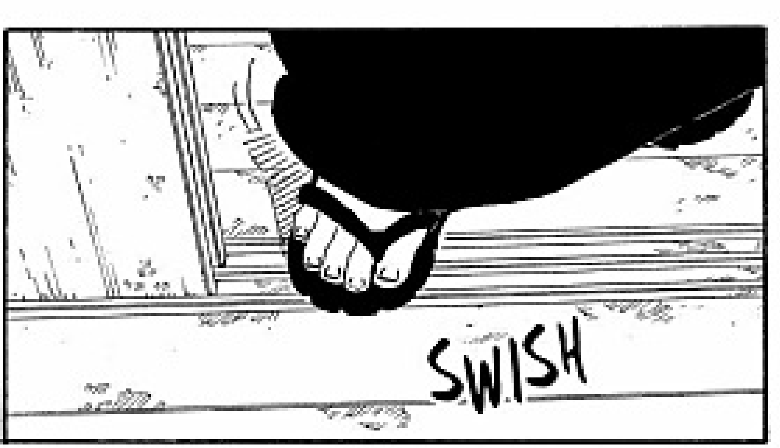

IF... KONOHA-GAKURE ...
...AND SUBSE-QUENTLY THE LAND OF FIRE, ARE ENDANGERED BECAUSE OF ME...

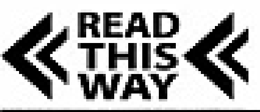

THEN I SWEAR, AS THE FIFTH HOKAGE, TO PROTECT THEM WITH ALL MY MIGHT.
AND MY VERY OWN LIFE...
...
...
...

AS YOU WISH, THEN...A COMPROMISE...
TO HONOR YOUR FAITH IN HIM, NARUTO SHALL BE ALLOWED TO REMAIN IN ACTIVE DUTY... HOWEVER ...
...WE SHALL SELECT THE ADDITIONAL SHINOBI...
...WHO ARE TO JOIN TEAM KAKASHI.

...
DONE.
DANZO...
... ENTER!





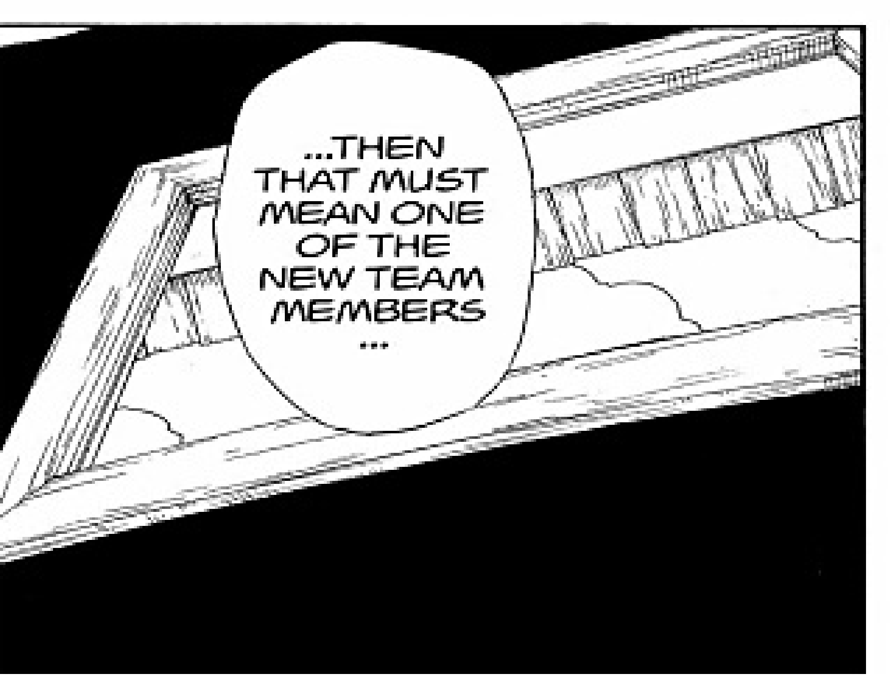

READ THIS WAY




...DANZO...

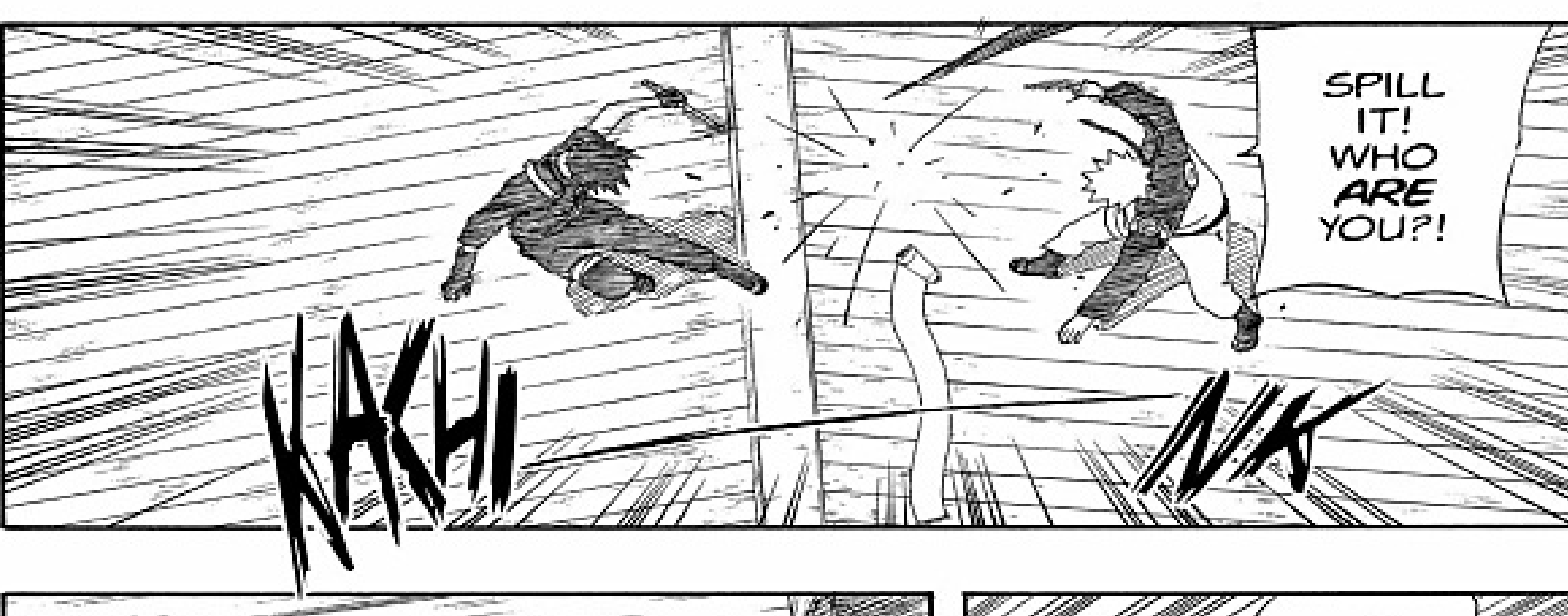

HELLO, PRINCESS. BEEN A LONG TIME...


IF YOU'RE HERE...


...THEN THAT MUST MEAN ONE OF THE NEW TEAM MEMBERS...


...


...IS FROM *THE FOUNDATION* OF THE BLACK OPS?


SPILL IT! WHO *ARE* YOU?!
KACHI
NK


!


SWISH


READ THIS WAY


LEAP
IN DUE TIME, NARUTO. ALL IN DUE TIME...

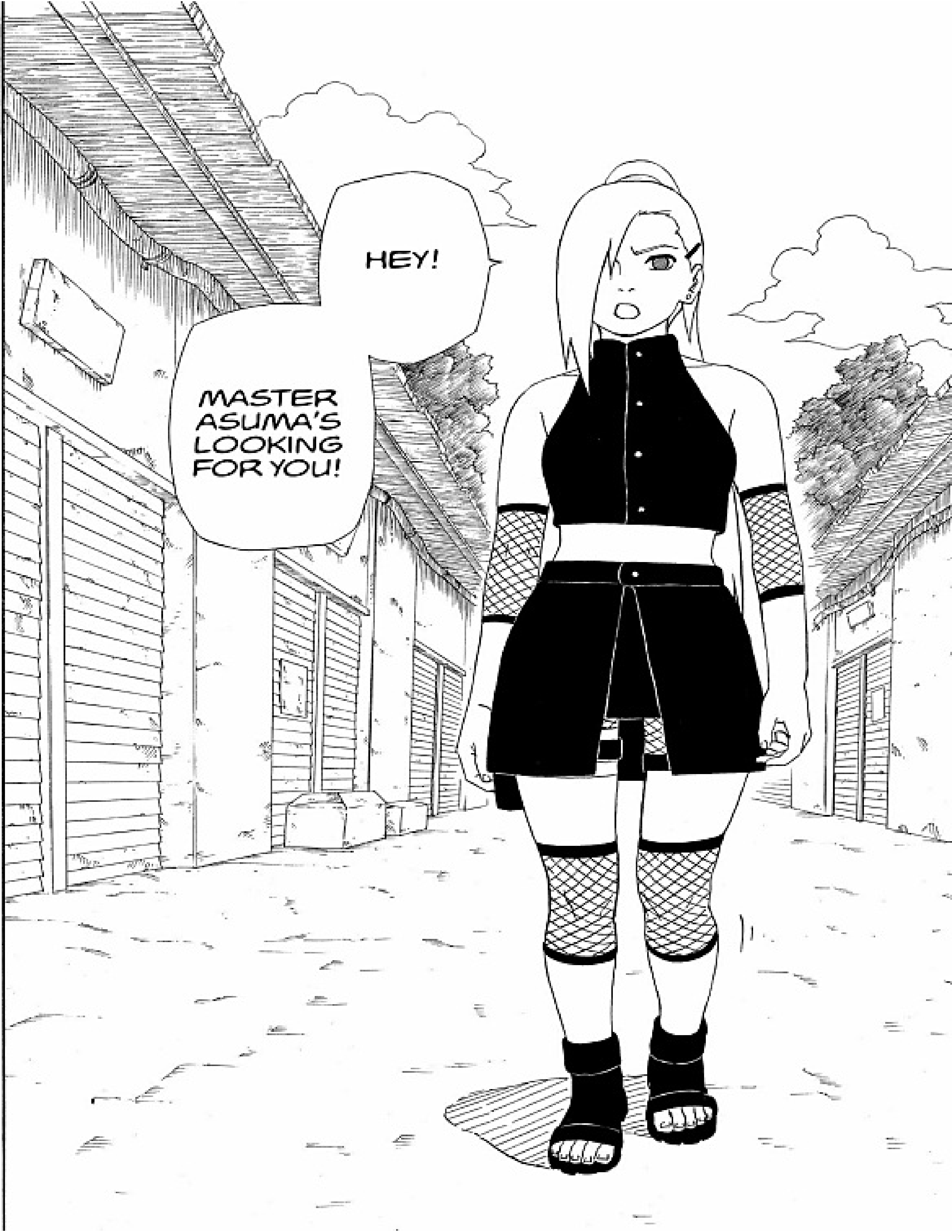

SWIRL


HEY, WAIT !!

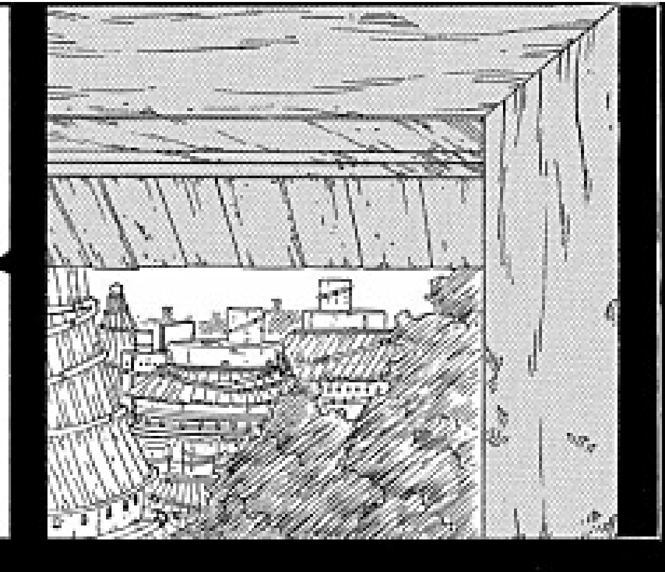

...
...

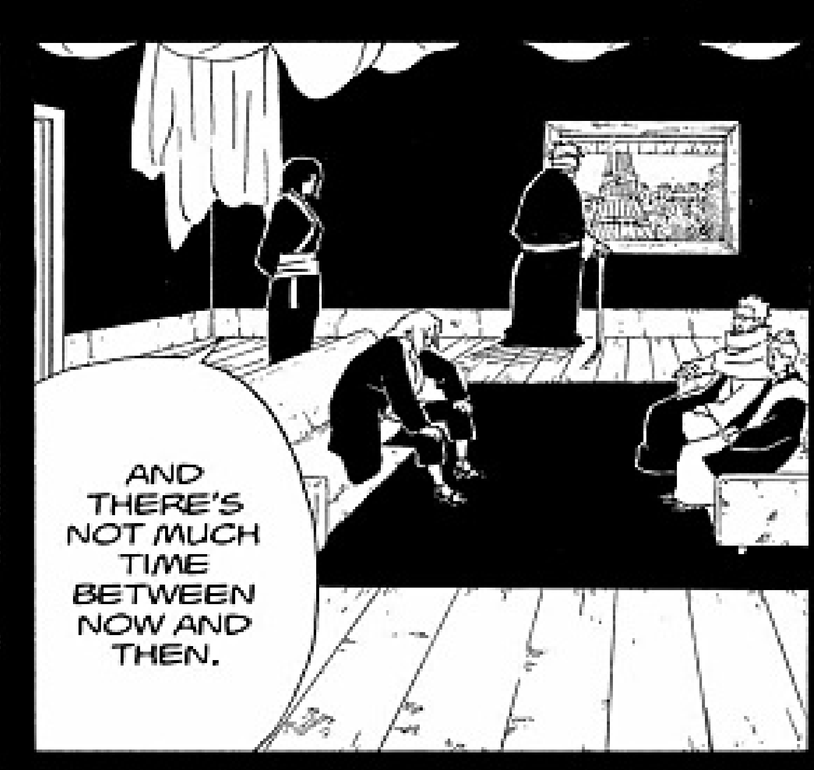

WHO WAS THAT GUY...?


!
CHOJI! HOW'D I KNOW I'D FIND YOU HERE ...?!

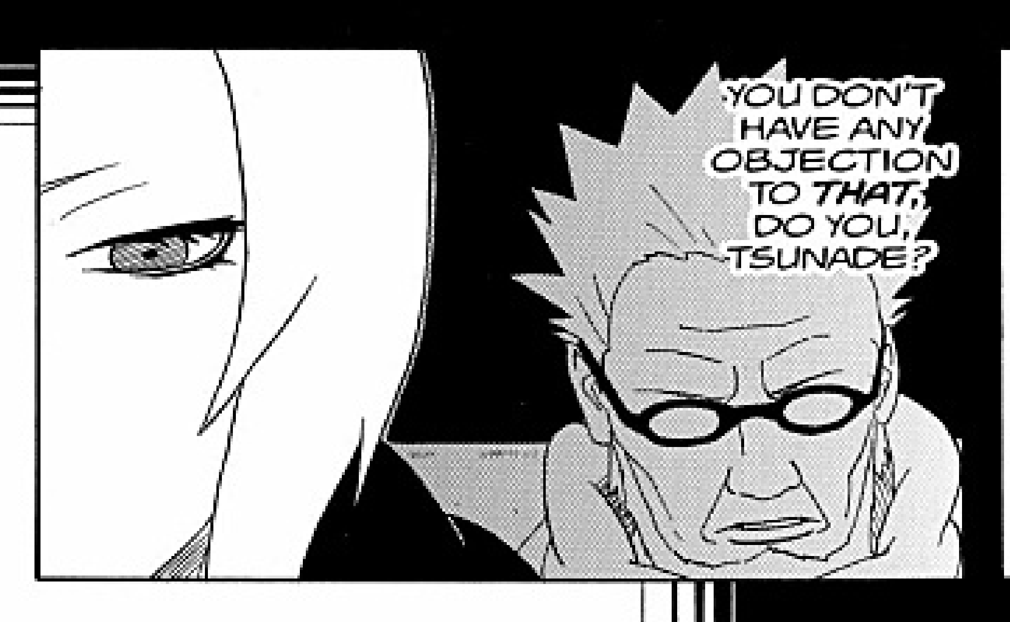

HEY!
MASTER ASUMA'S LOOKING FOR YOU!


SORRY, INO...
SOME WEIRDO JUST SUDDENLY ATTACKED US...
WEIRDO?
...
WHO? NARUTO ...?
NO, NO... NOT HIM...! UHH...
HEY, NARUTO!! LONG TIME NO SEE!
SAVE YOUR BREATH, CHOJI. IT'S SO NOT WORTH IT...



THEY WILL HAVE TO LEAVE BEFORE KAKASHI FINISHES RECU-PERATING...
...TEAM KAKASHI WILL NEED ONE MORE MEMBER.

AND THERE'S NOT MUCH TIME BETWEEN NOW AND THEN.

...THEN THE CHOICE IS CLEAR...YOU REQUIRE AN EXCEPTIONALLY DISTINGUISHED COMMANDER ...
...ONE FROM AMONG THE BLACK OPS, ASSIGNED DIRECTLY TO THE HOKAGE HERSELF.

YES!
THAT IS ACCEPT-ABLE.

YOU DON'T HAVE ANY OBJECTION TO *THAT,* DO YOU, TSUNADE?


READ THIS WAY


...
GLANCE


...AND SO...
...THAT'S WHY I NEED YOU TO FILL IN FOR YOUR PREDECES-SOR.

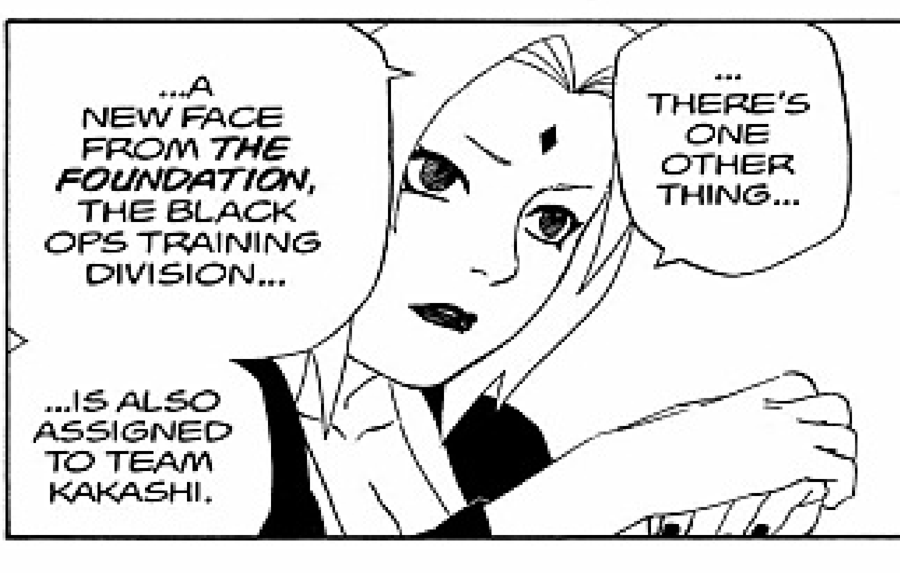

MASTER KAKASHI...? THOSE ARE HUGE SHOES TO FILL.
I AM GREATLY HONORED.


UNDER-STAND THIS WILL NOT BE A BLACK OPS MISSION...
...BUT A REGULAR MISSION.
THERE-FORE, YOU MUST REMOVE YOUR MASK...
...AND BE ASSIGNED A CODE NAME.


WHILE ON THIS MISSION, YOU WILL CALL YOURSELF *YAMATO*.
CLOP

UNDER-STOOD.

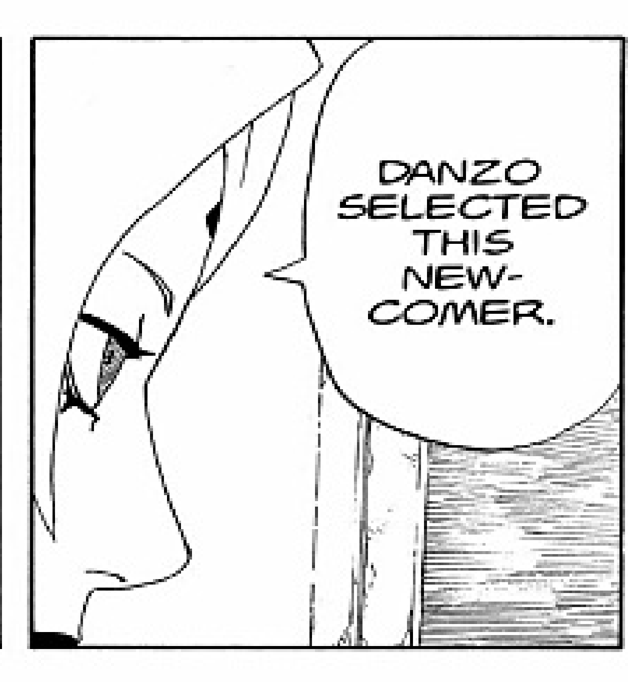

YOU MUST...
YES?

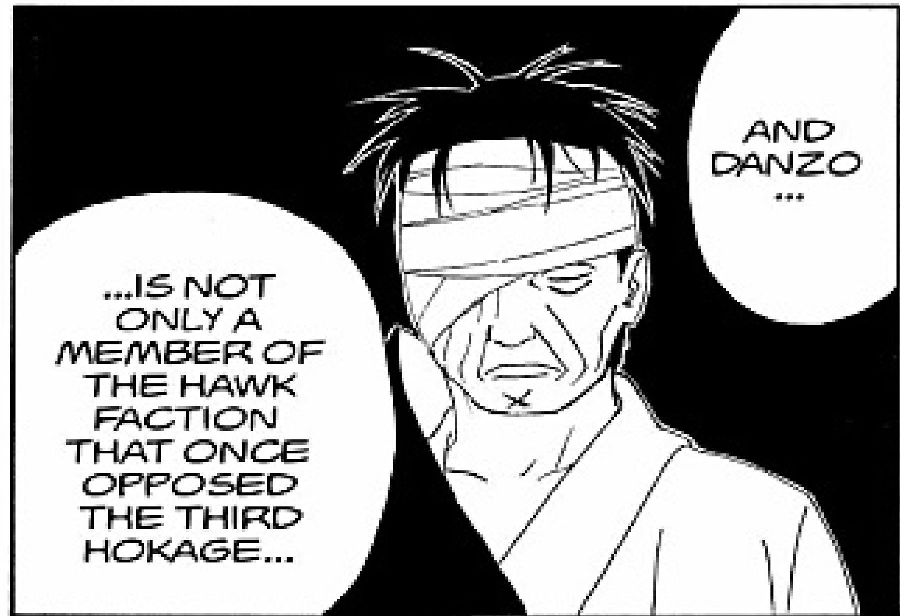

...A NEW FACE FROM *THE FOUNDATION*, THE BLACK OPS TRAINING DIVISION...
...IS ALSO ASSIGNED TO TEAM KAKASHI.
...THERE'S ONE OTHER THING...


...AND ...THE REASON FOR THIS?


...KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON HIM.


READ THIS WAY

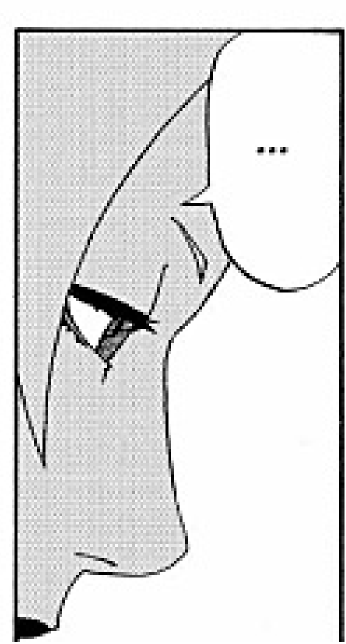

DANZO SELECTED THIS NEW-COMER.

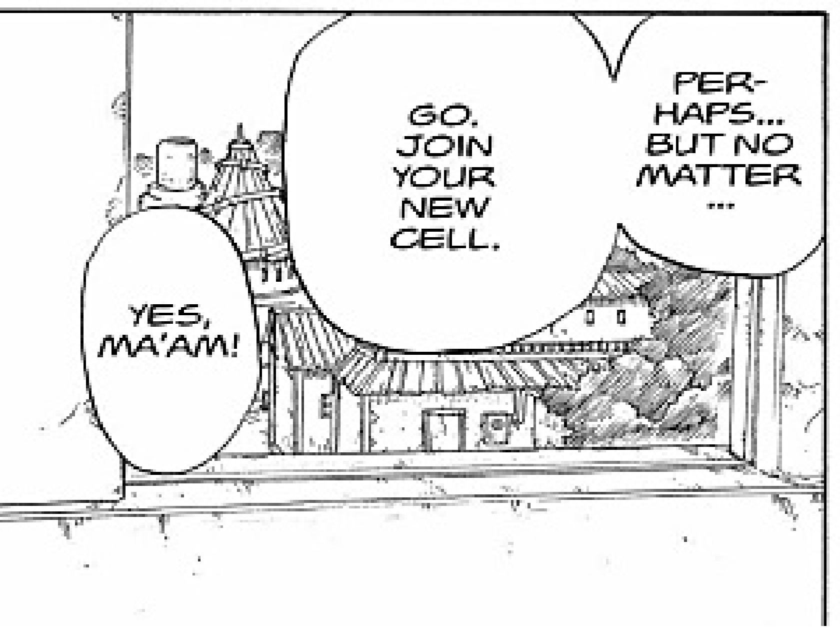

AND DANZO ...
...IS NOT ONLY A MEMBER OF THE HAWK FACTION THAT ONCE OPPOSED THE THIRD HOKAGE...


...BUT ALSO THE FOUNDER OF A SEPARATE DETAIL WITHIN THE BLACK OPS...
...A TRAINING DIVISION KNOWN AS *THE FOUNDATION*.
SURELY YOU'VE HEARD OF HIM...


THOUGH THE FOUNDATION HAS SINCE BEEN DISSOLVED, AND DANZO REMOVED ...
...I CAN'T HELP BUT BE SUSPICIOUS OF HIS MOTIVES.


NO DISRE-SPECT, MILADY... BUT MIGHT YOU BE OVER-REACT-ING...?

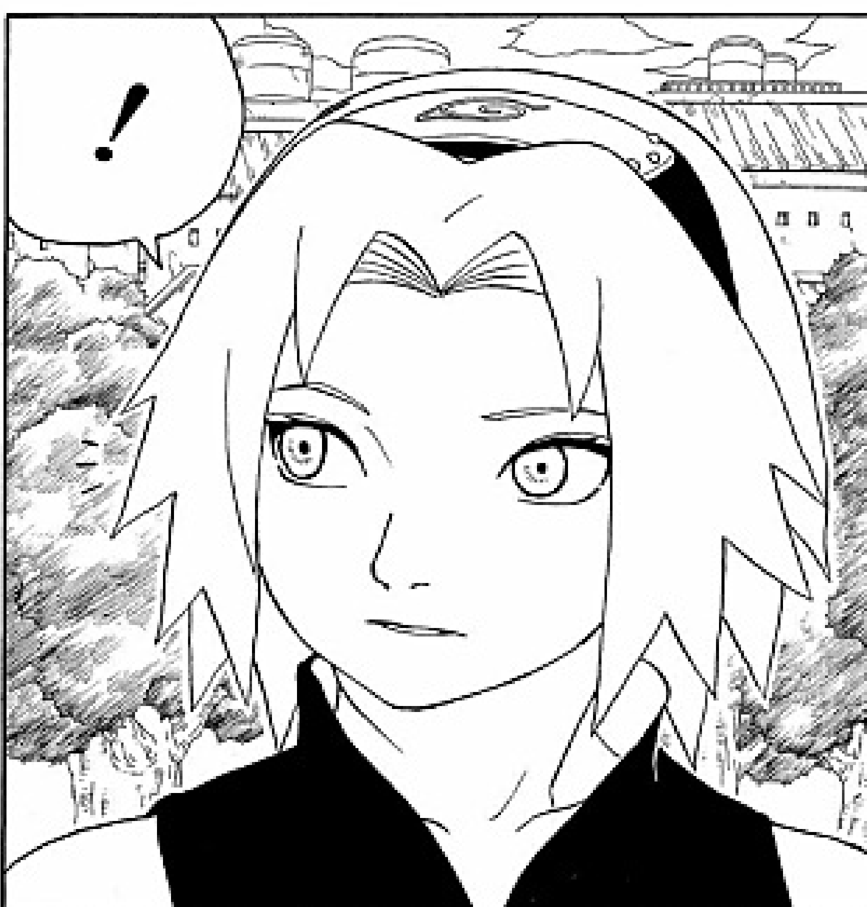

...


PER-HAPS... BUT NO MATTER ...
GO. JOIN YOUR NEW CELL.
YES, MA'AM!

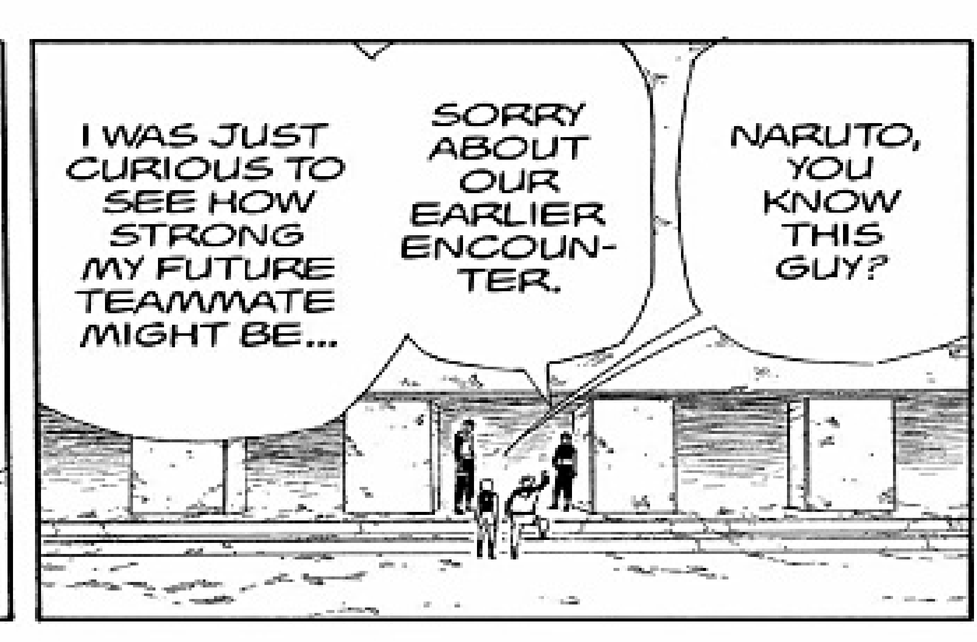

Y-
YOU!!


HELLO AGAIN ...


SO... UM... STARTING TODAY...
...
...I'LL BE FILLING IN FOR KAKASHI...


!


READ THIS WAY


NARUTO, YOU KNOW THIS GUY?
SORRY ABOUT OUR EARLIER ENCOUN-TER.
I WAS JUST CURIOUS TO SEE HOW STRONG MY FUTURE TEAMMATE MIGHT BE...


...AND WHETHER OR NOT I'D EVENTUALLY HAVE TO COME TO THE LITTLE BOY'S AID.


WHAT ?!
HEY! WE HAVE TO WORK TOGETHER! SO DON'T FIGHT RIGHT FROM THE GET-GO!


...AND YOU...
...THAT WASN'T VERY NICE...


REALLY?
BUT I LIKE UGLY GIRLS LIKE YOU.

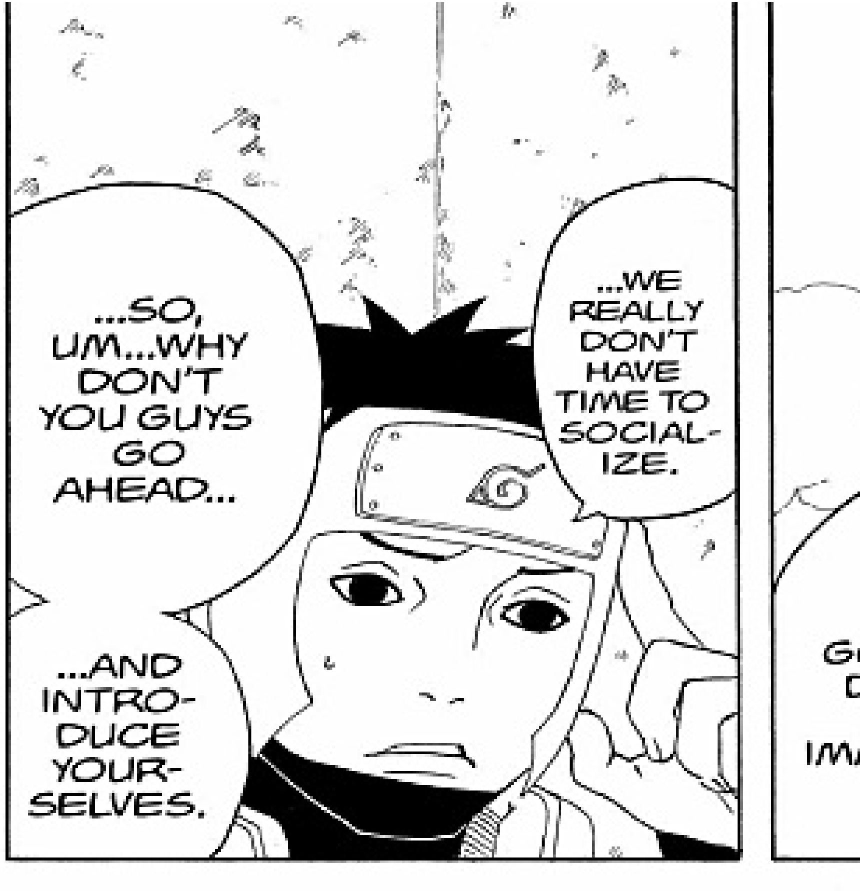

WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?!
WHOA! EASY, SAKURA! FOLLOW YOUR OWN ADVICE!

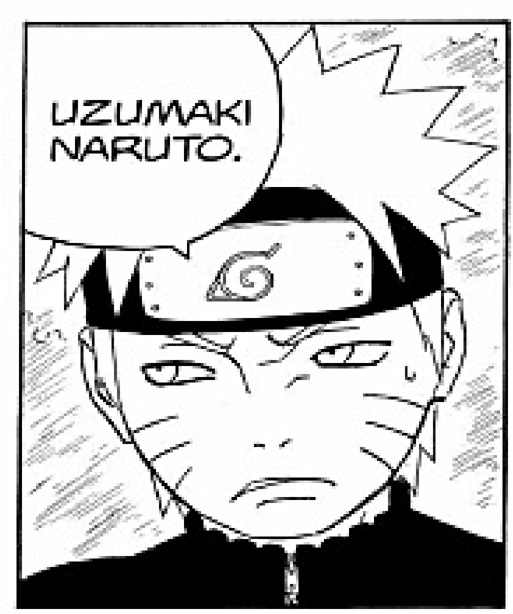

Happy 6th
Anniversary 2005'
printed by 西谷浩一.
NISHIYA KÛICHI

Number 285: The Foundation



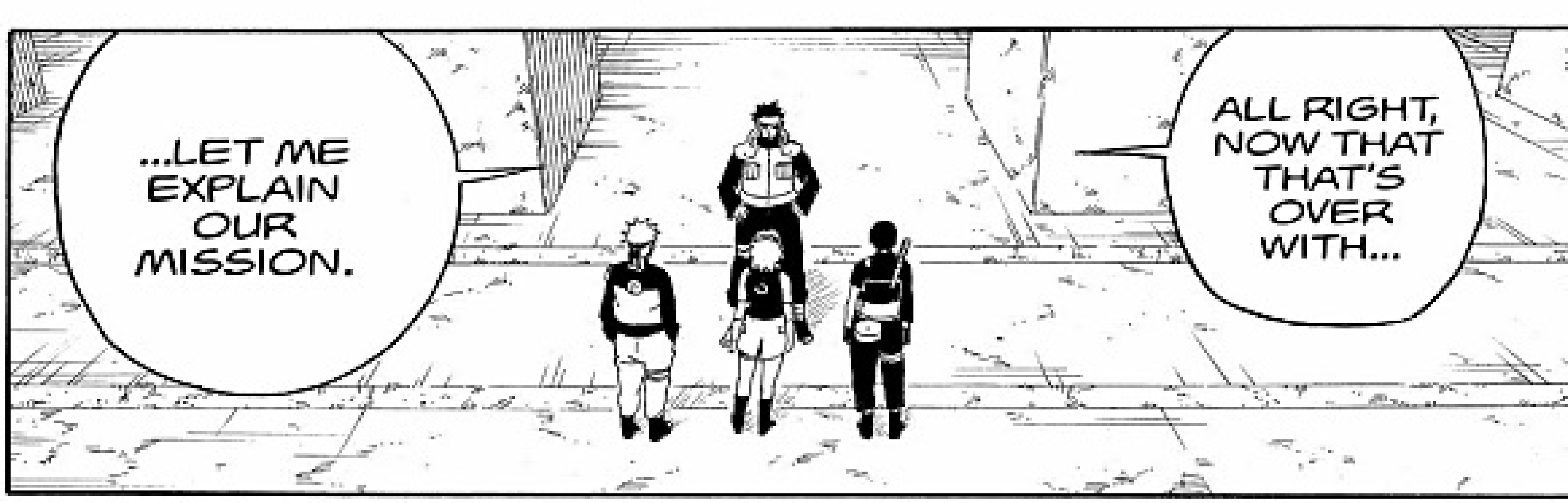

ANYWAY...
...SINCE WE'RE GOING TO BE DEPLOYING ALMOST IMMEDIATELY...

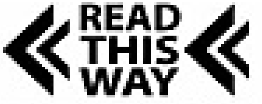

...WE REALLY DON'T HAVE TIME TO SOCIAL-IZE.
...SO, UM...WHY DON'T YOU GUYS GO AHEAD...
...AND INTRO-DUCE YOUR-SELVES.


UZUMAKI NARUTO.


I'M HARUNO SAKURA.

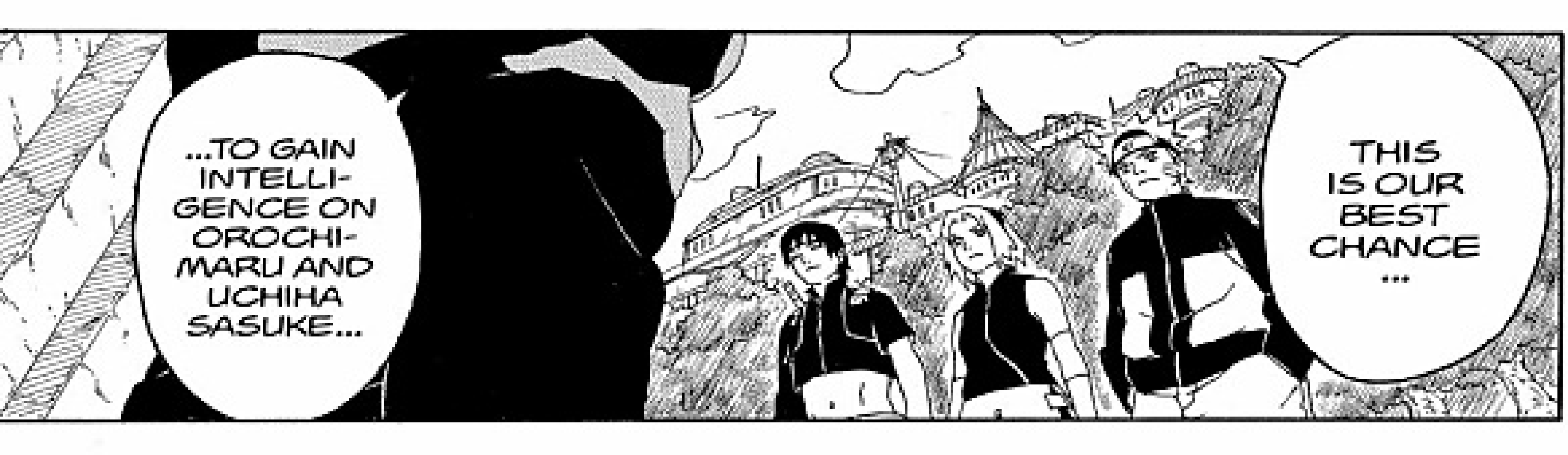

I AM SAI.


ALL RIGHT, NOW THAT THAT'S OVER WITH...
...LET ME EXPLAIN OUR MISSION.


READ
THIS
WAY



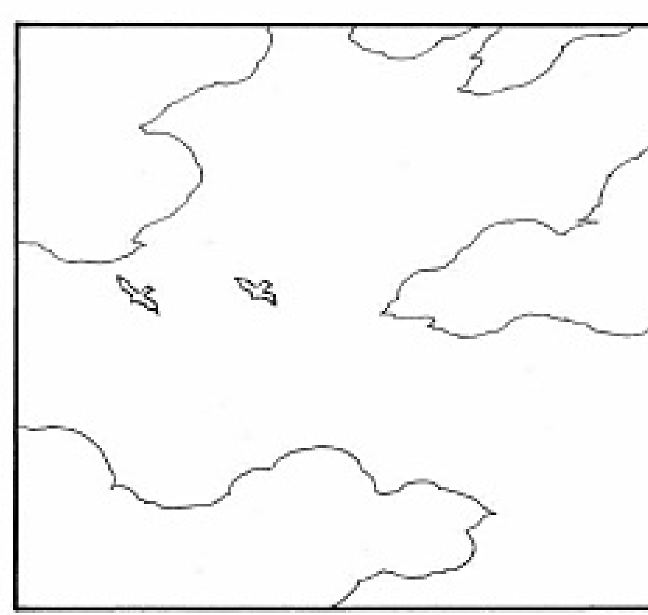

THE FOUR OF US WILL HEAD TO TENCHI BRIDGE...
...CAPTURE THE AKATSUKI SPY WHO HAS INFILTRATED OROCHIMARU'S ORGANIZATION, AND BRING HIM OR HER BACK HERE.


THIS IS OUR BEST CHANCE ...
...TO GAIN INTELLI-GENCE ON OROCHI-MARU AND UCHIHA SASUKE...


...INFORMATION WE CAN THEN USE TO PLAN OROCHIMARU'S ASSASSINA-TION...
...AND SASUKE'S RETRIEVAL.


SO KEEP THAT IN MIND!

AS SOON AS EVERYONE'S GEAR IS ALL PACKED...
...RENDEZVOUS AT THE MAIN GATE.
THEN WE'LL DEPART!



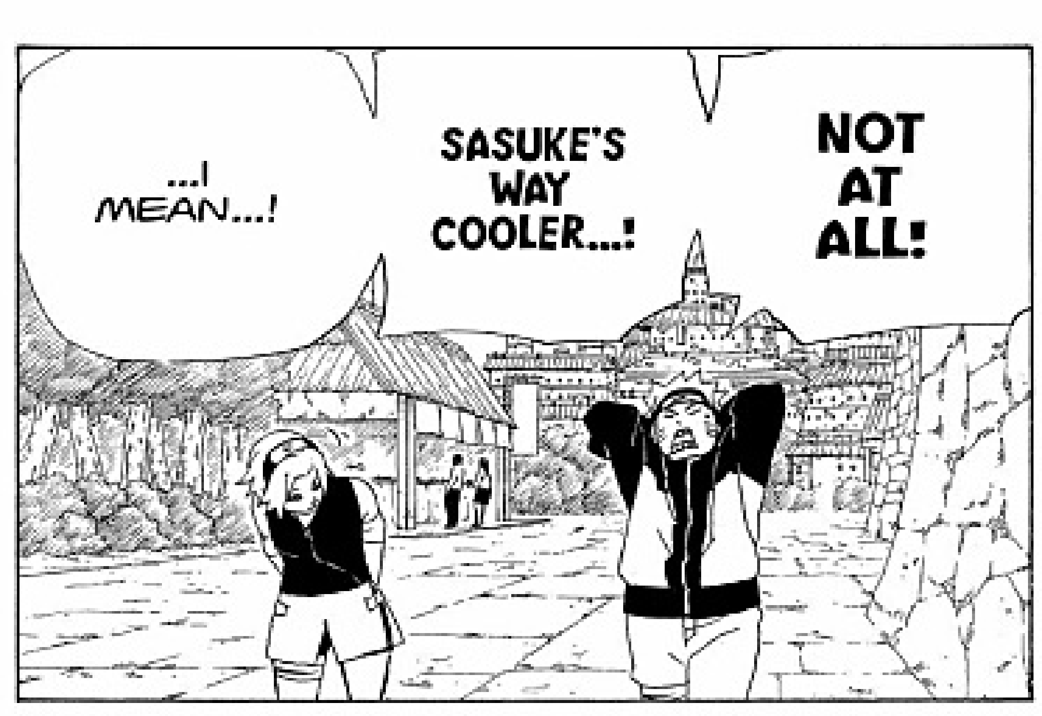


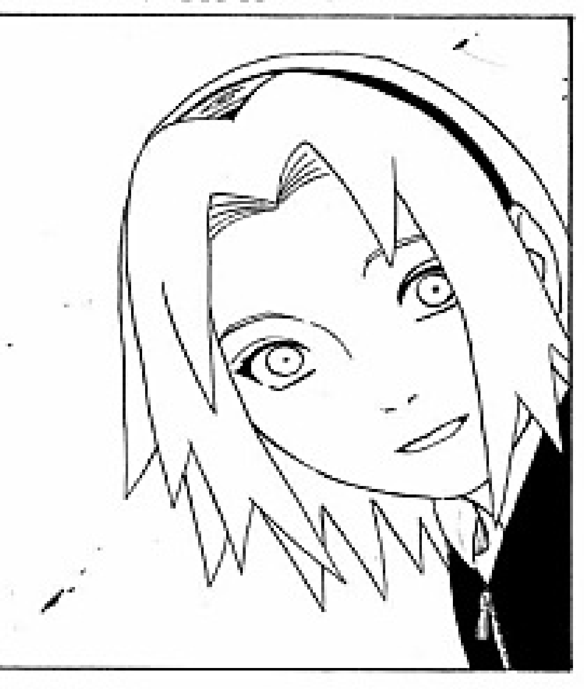




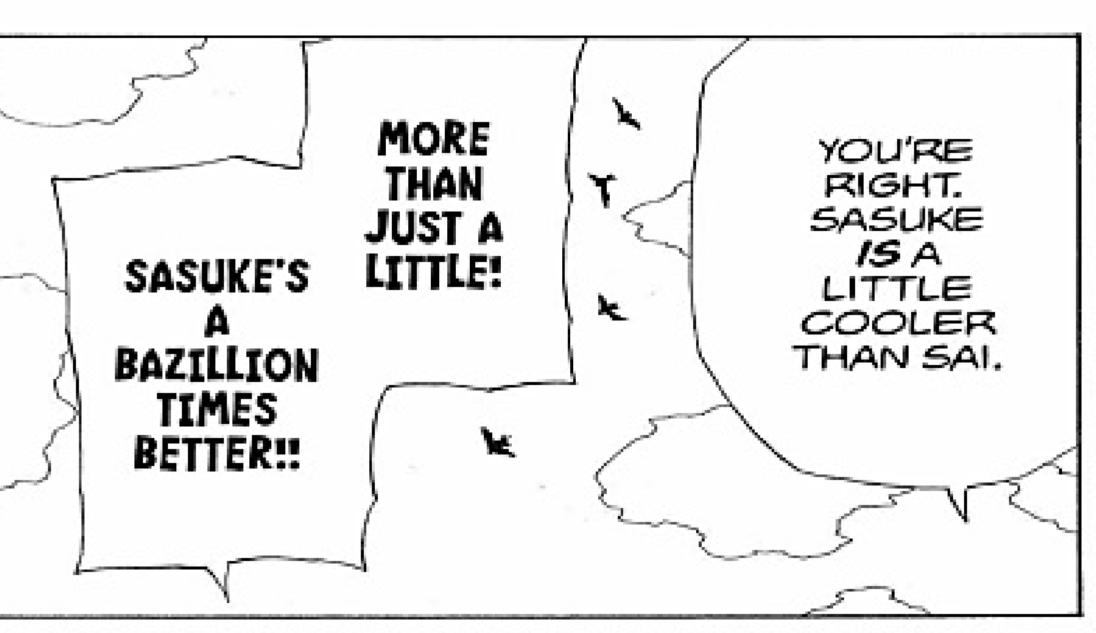


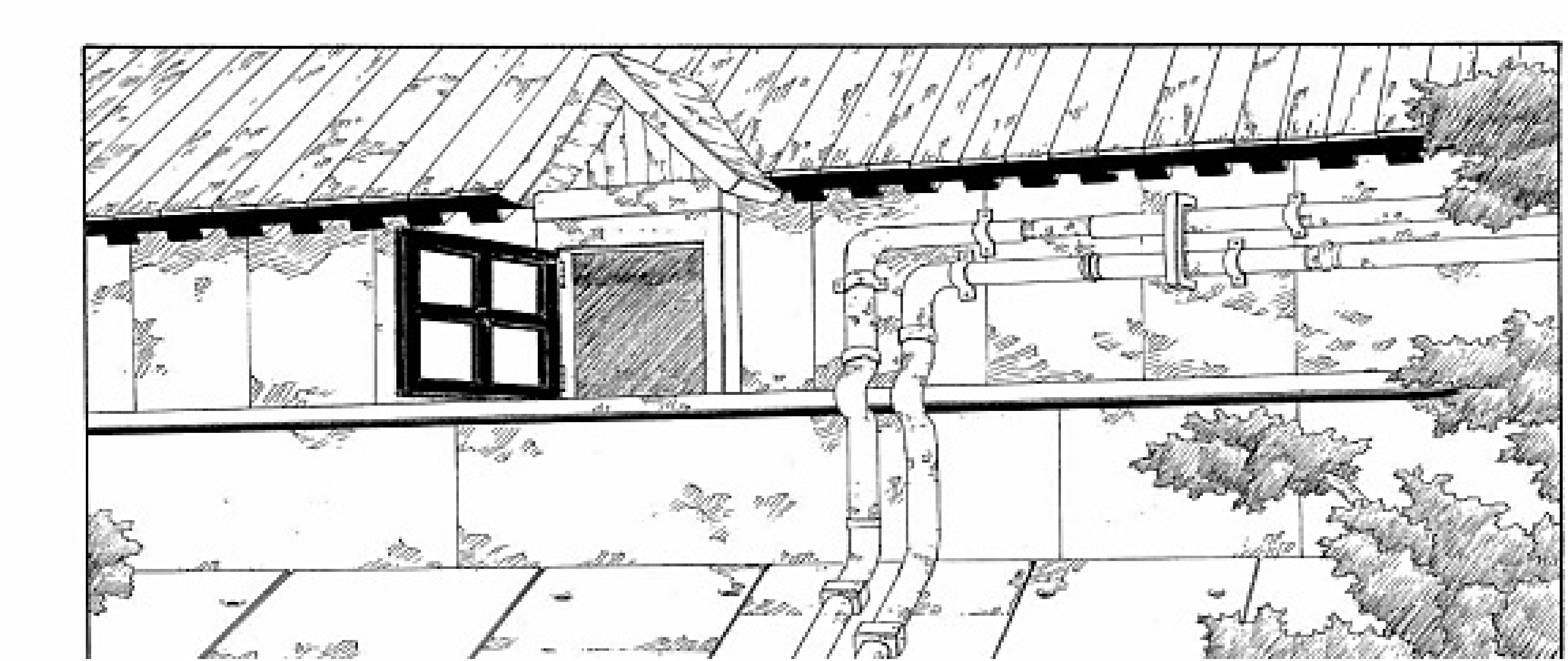

READ THIS WAY

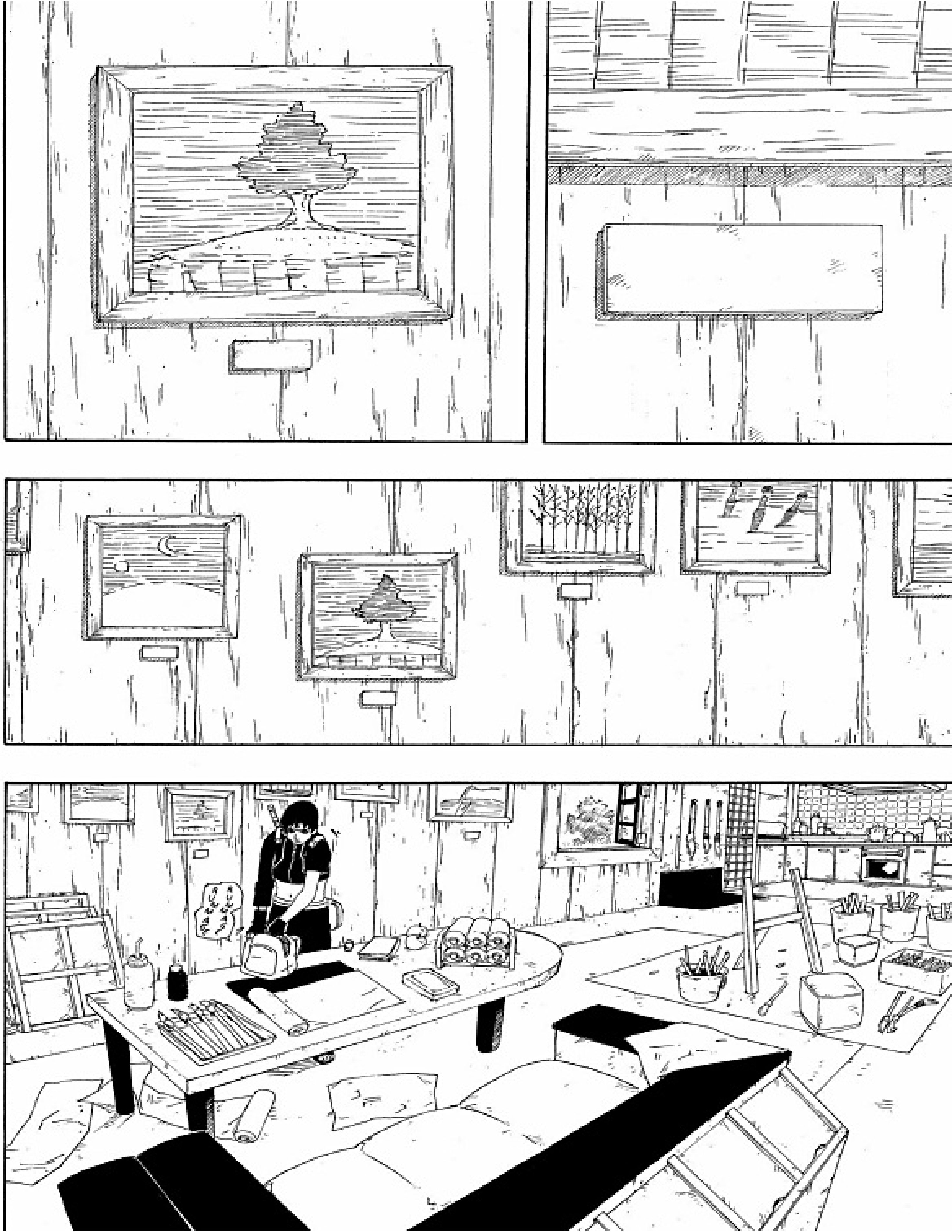

NOT AT ALL!
SASUKE'S WAY COOLER...!
...I MEAN...!



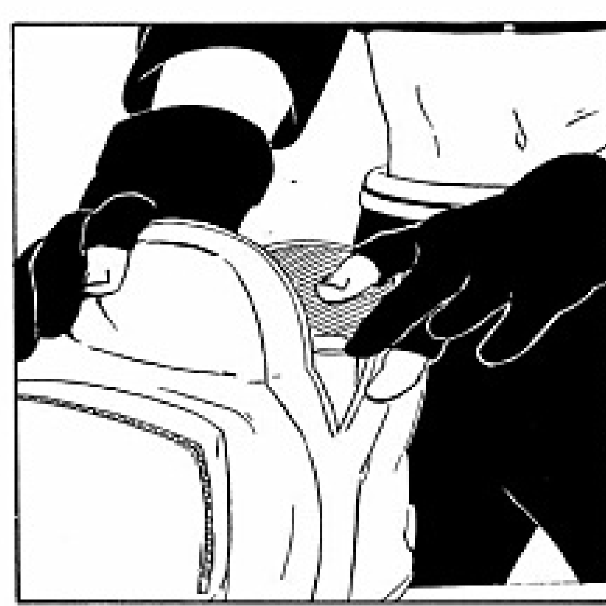

...


YOU'RE RIGHT. SASUKE *IS* A LITTLE COOLER THAN SAI.
MORE THAN JUST A LITTLE!
SASUKE'S A BAZILLION TIMES BETTER!!






READ THIS WAY




PAT


...!




...


!

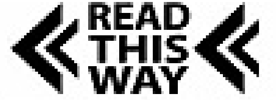

WHIRL

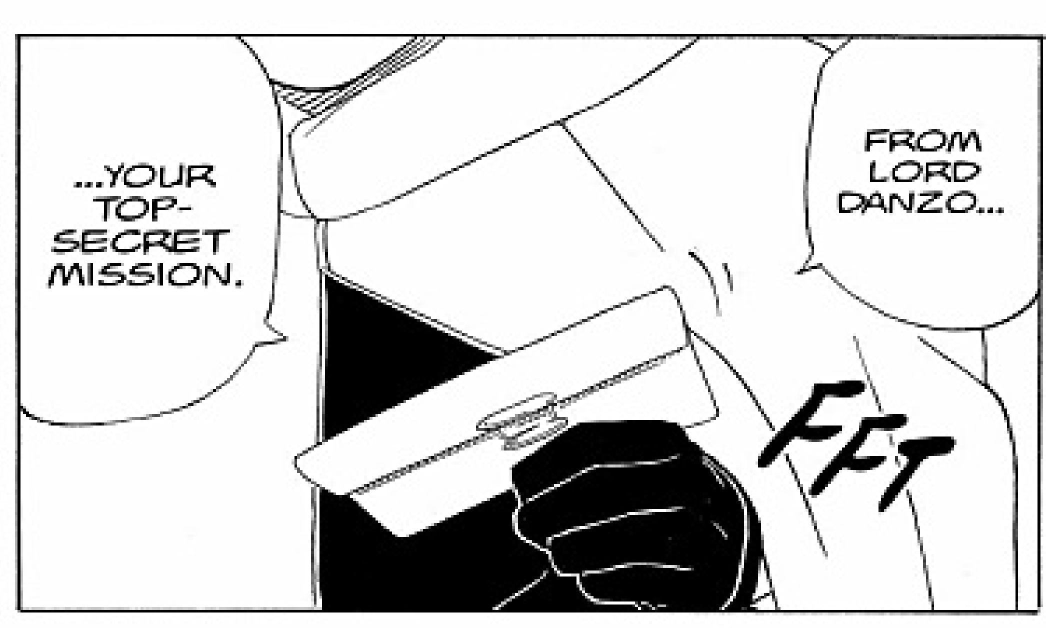
KACHI
NG!

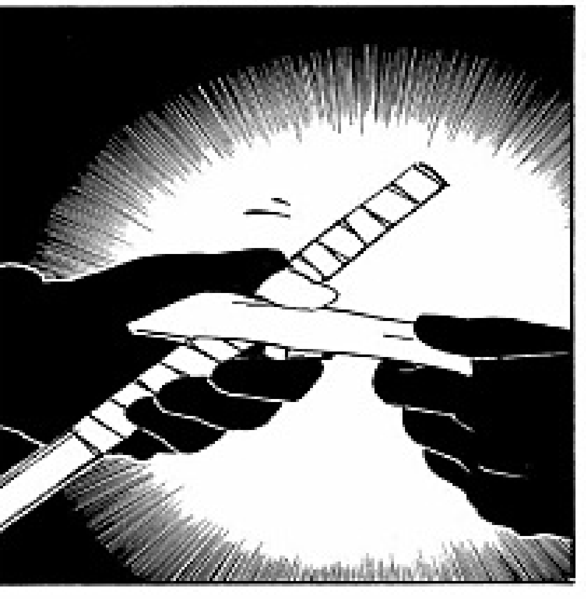

...VERY NICE RE-FLEXES.
BUT REMEM-BER... ***NEVER LET YOUR GUARD DOWN.***


...


WHAT DO YOU WANT... SIR?


READ THIS WAY

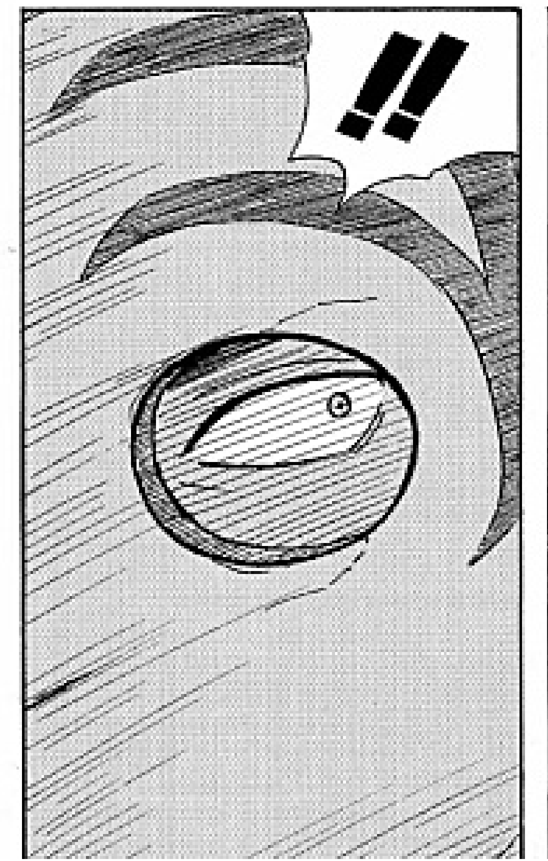

FROM LORD DANZO...
...YOUR TOP-SECRET MISSION.
FFT



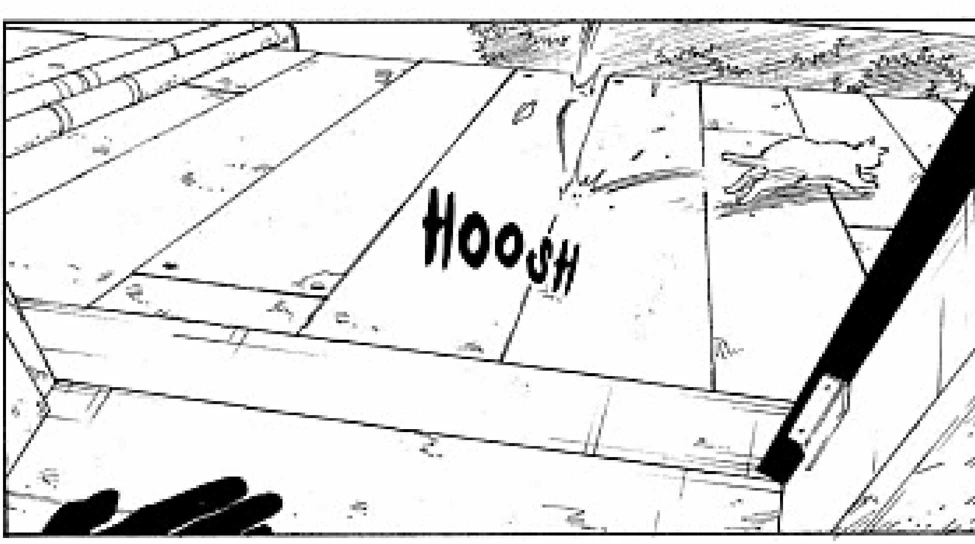

FLIP
GLANCE

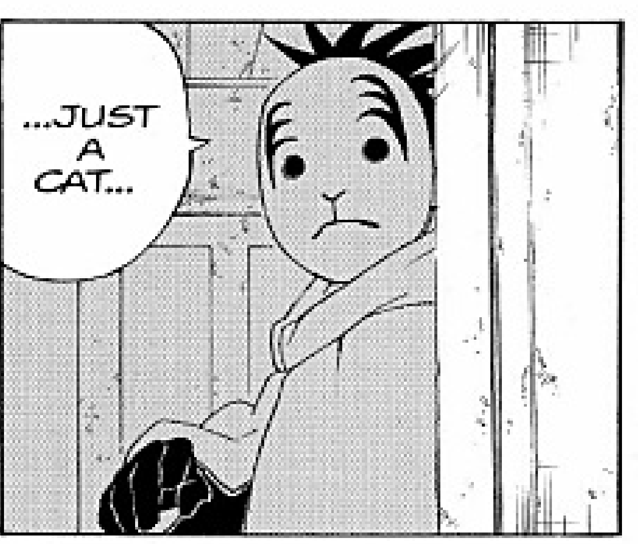

...


LISTEN, THIS SECRET MISSION YOU ARE ON...
...IS DIRECTED BY LORD DANZO. THE FUTURE OF KONOHA DEPENDS UPON YOUR SUCCESS.


!!

WHAM
ZWHAP
MROWR!


HOOSH

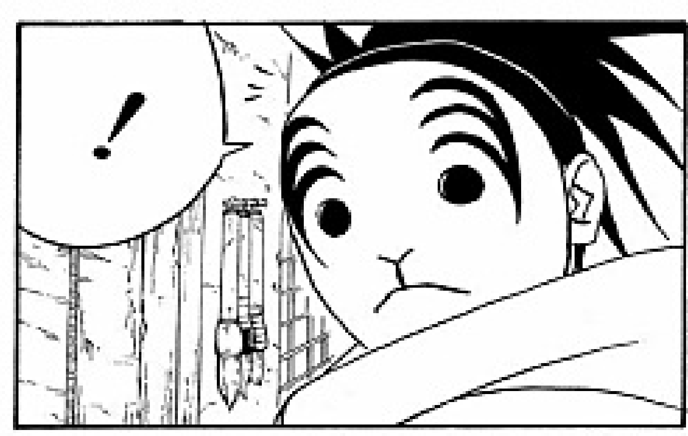

...JUST A CAT...

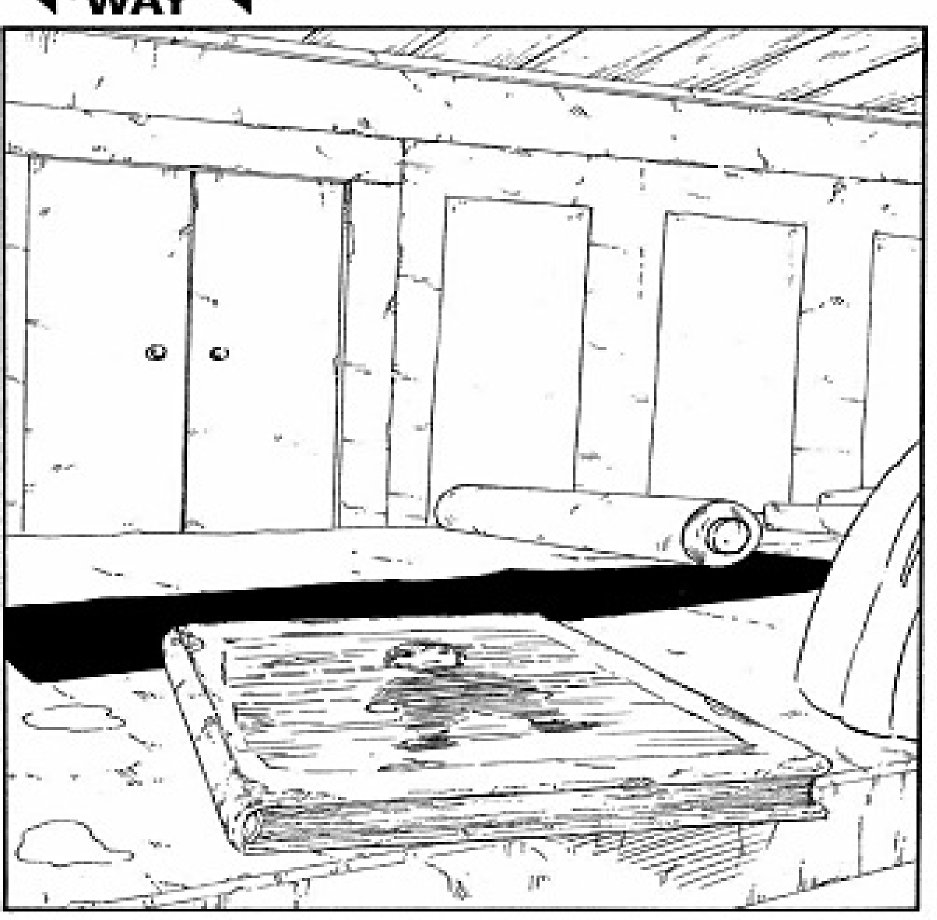

...

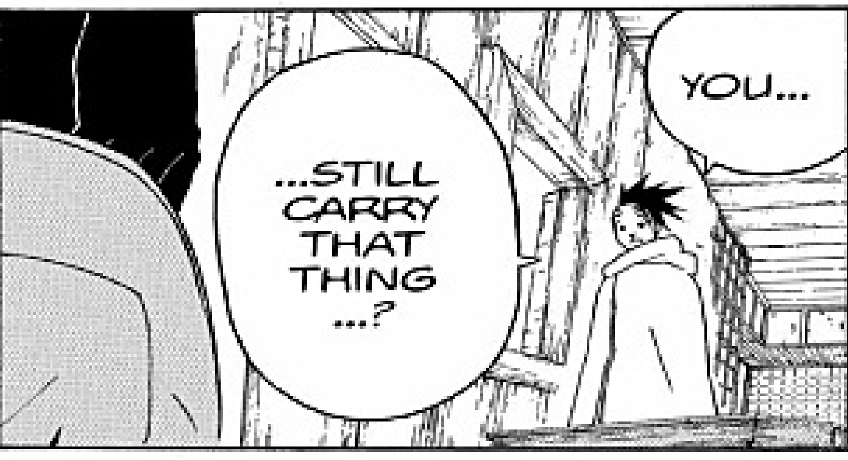

...IN ANY CASE ...
... MISTAKES WILL NOT BE TOLER-ATED.


READ THIS WAY


I UNDERSTAND.


!




YOU...
...STILL CARRY THAT THING ...?


... THIS IS...


THOSE OF THE FOUNDATION...
...HAVE NO NAMES...
...NO EMOTIONS ...

THERE IS ONLY THE MISSION...
...NO PAST...
...AND NO FUTURE...

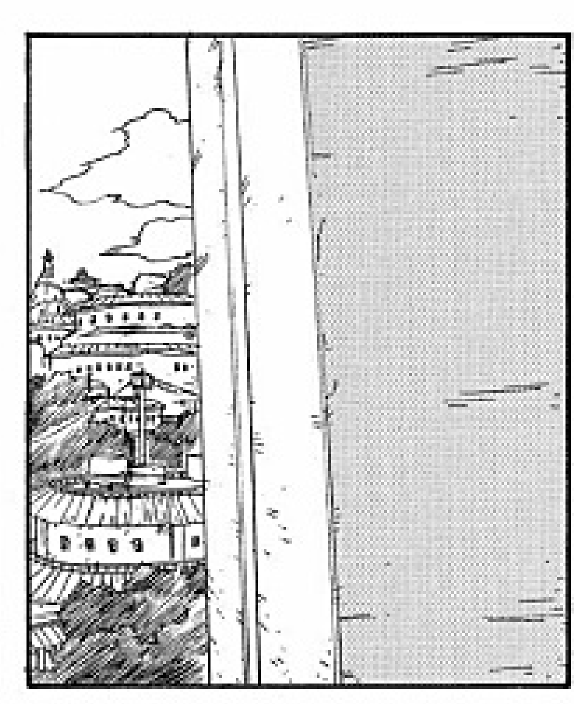


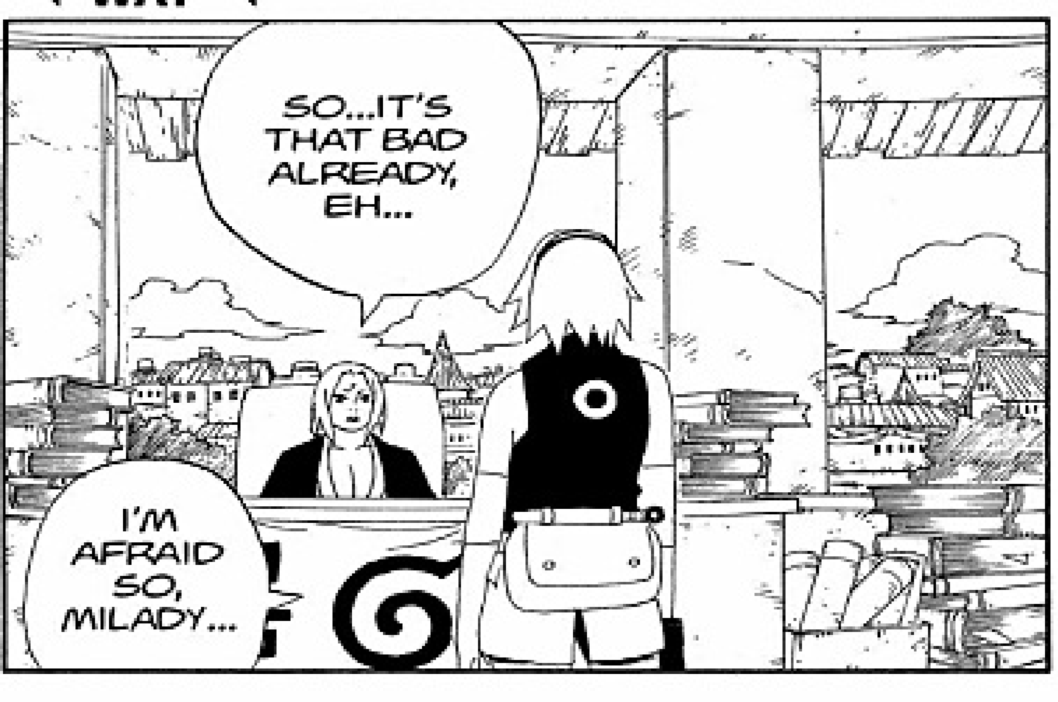






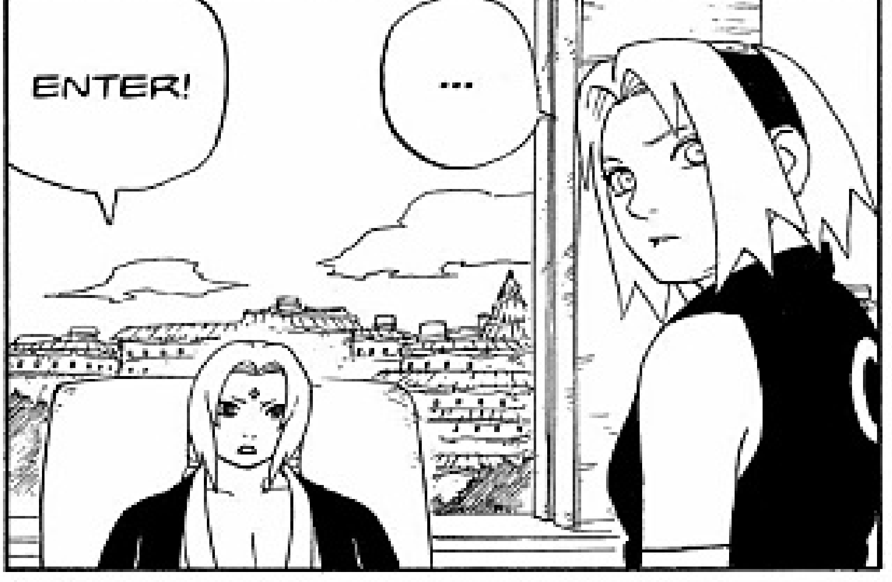

READ THIS WAY



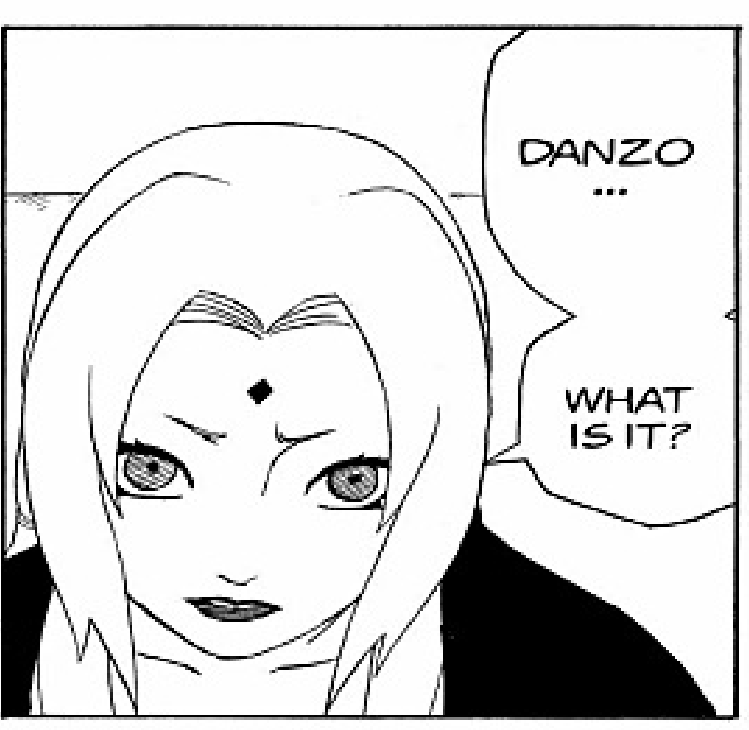

SO...IT'S THAT BAD ALREADY, EH...
I'M AFRAID SO, MILADY...

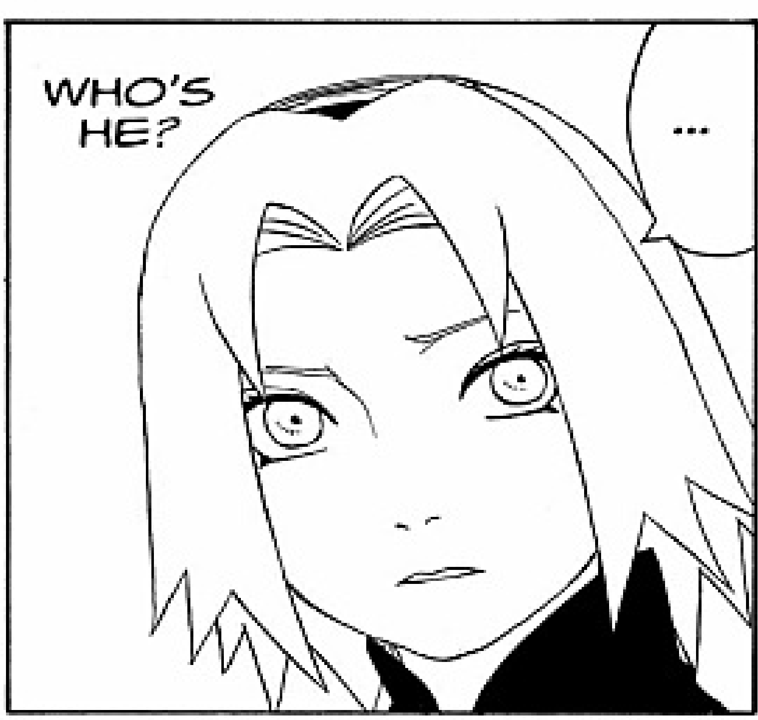

WELL, IF IT CAN'T BE HELPED...
...THEN YOU'LL PROBABLY HAVE TO KEEP NARUTO ON AN EVEN SHORTER LEASH THAN USUAL.
I PROMISE I WILL TRY, BUT...


KNOCK KNOCK

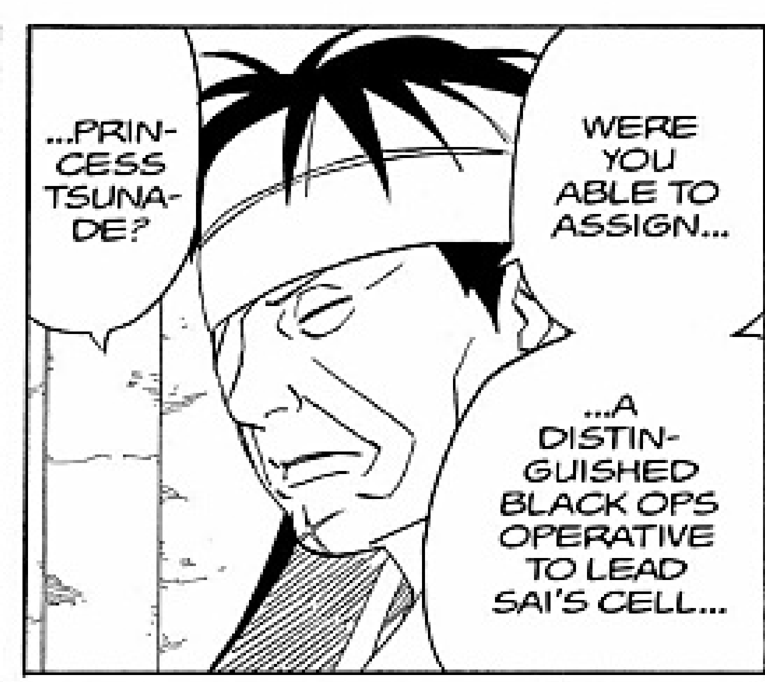

...
ENTER!

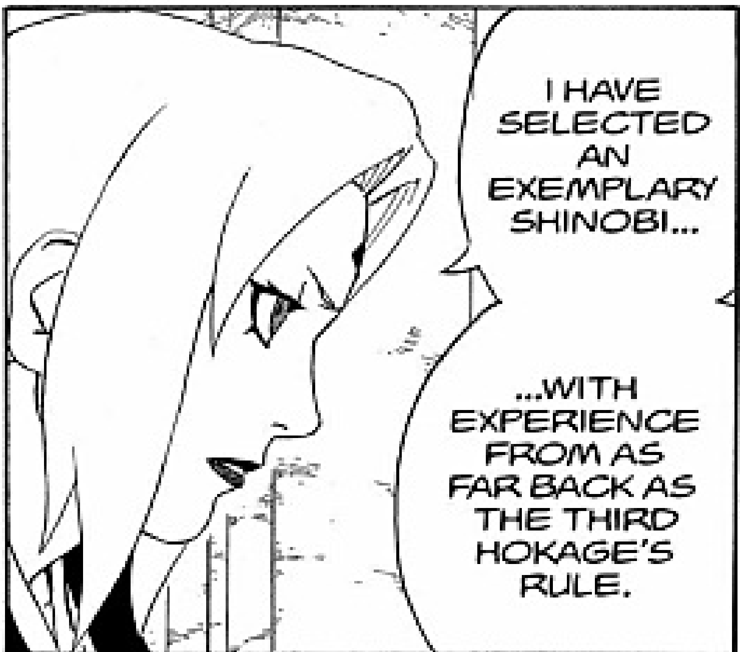
KLAK

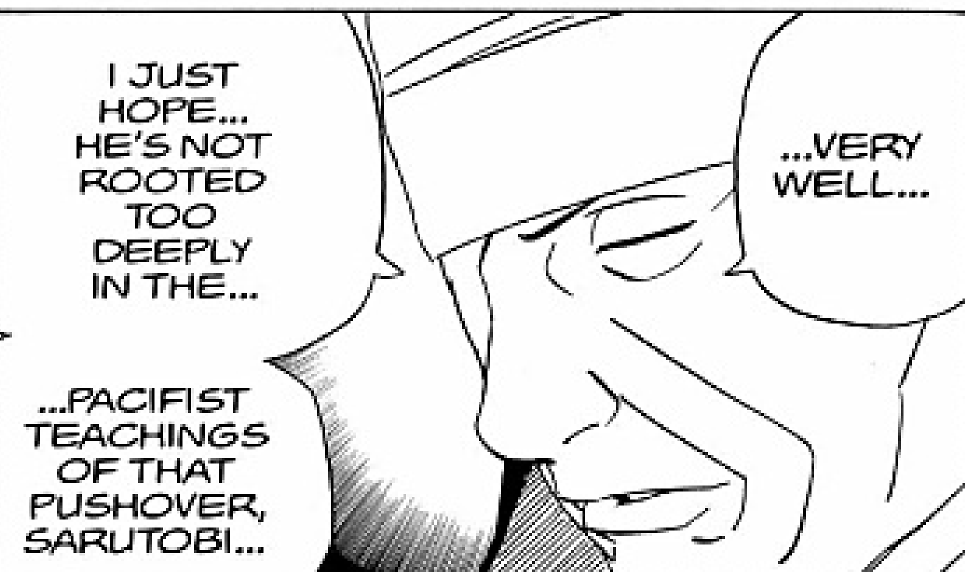


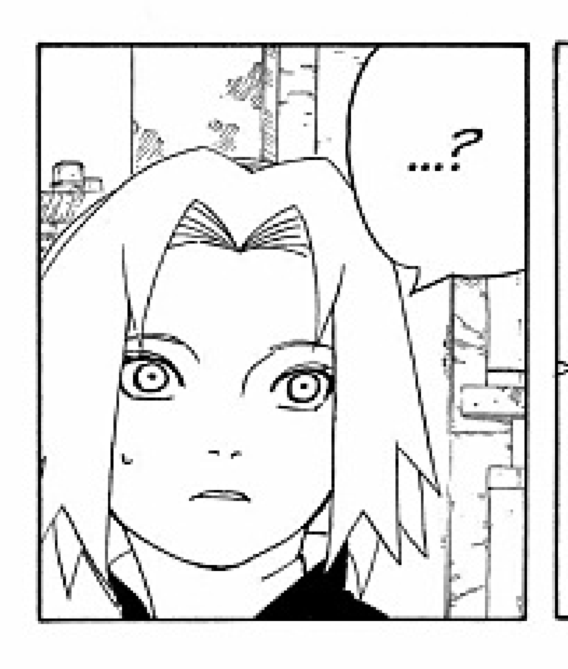


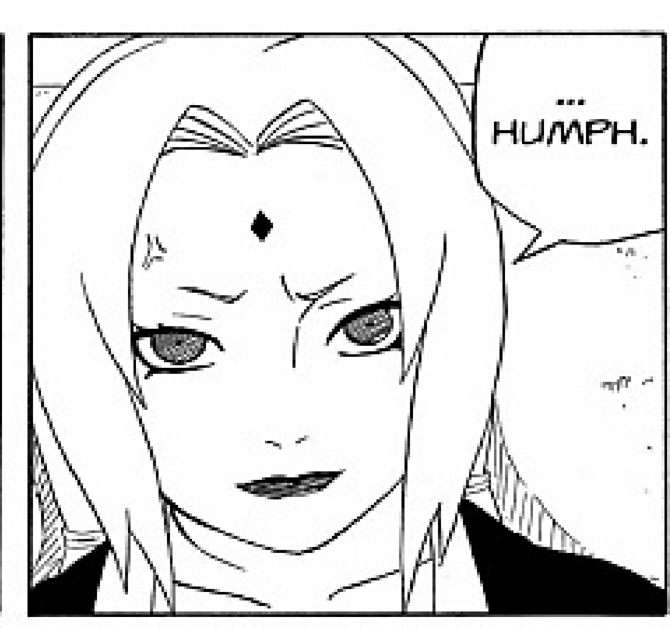

READ THIS WAY

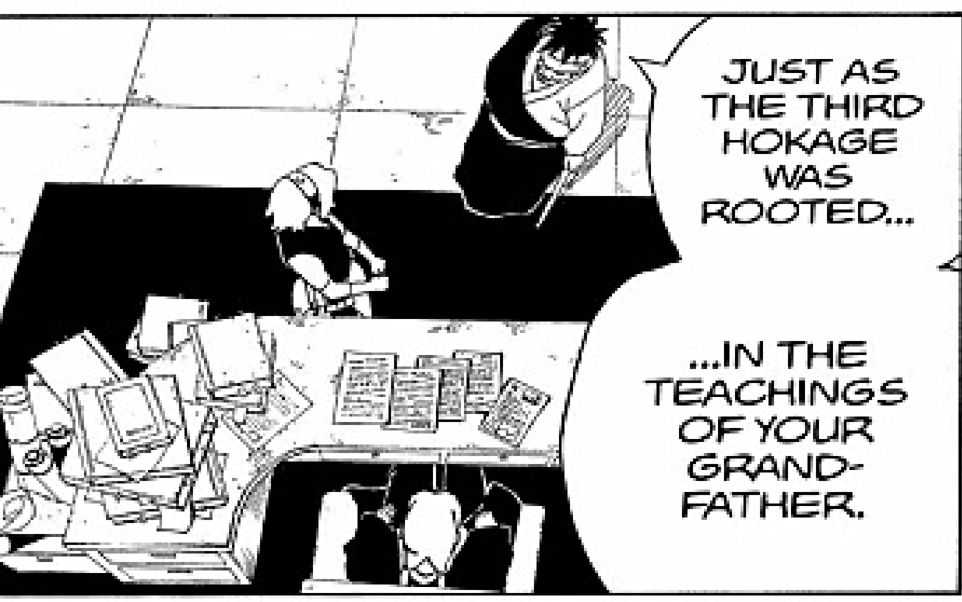

WERE YOU ABLE TO ASSIGN...
...A DISTIN-GUISHED BLACK OPS OPERATIVE TO LEAD SAI'S CELL...
...PRIN-CESS TSUNA-DE?

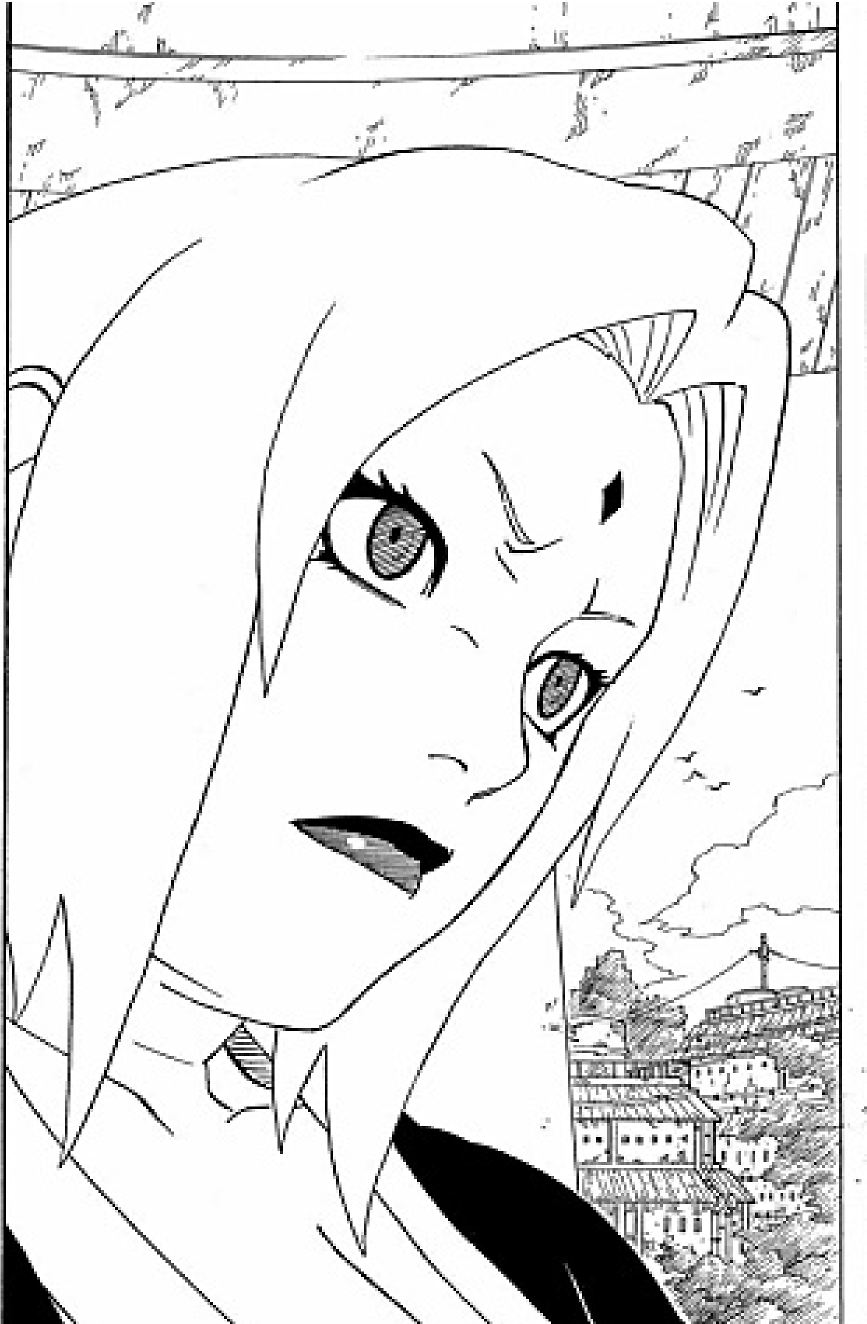

I HAVE SELECTED AN EXEMPLARY SHINOBI...
...WITH EXPERIENCE FROM AS FAR BACK AS THE THIRD HOKAGE'S RULE.


...VERY WELL...
I JUST HOPE... HE'S NOT ROOTED TOO DEEPLY IN THE...
...PACIFIST TEACHINGS OF THAT PUSHOVER, SARUTOBI...

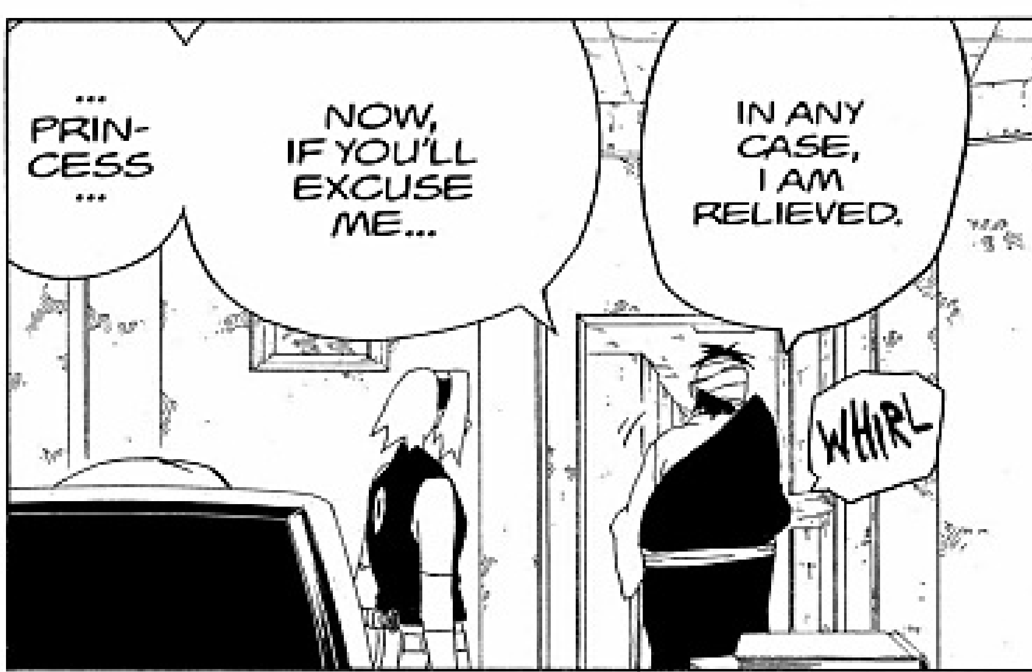

...?

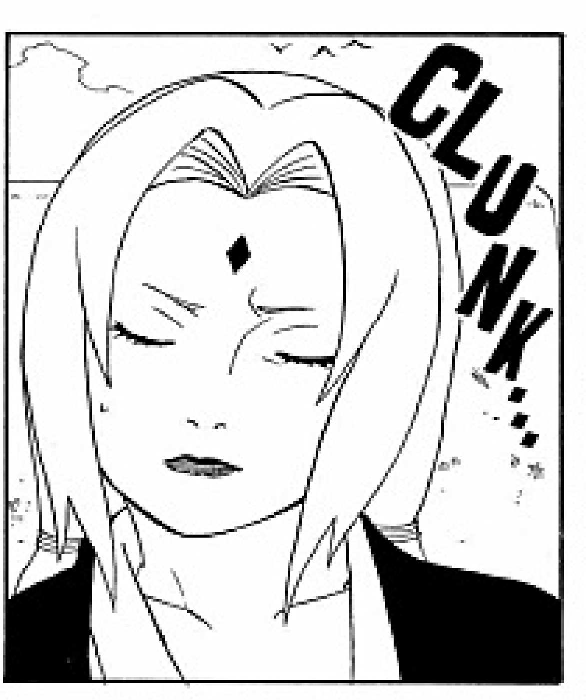

... HUMPH.


JUST AS THE THIRD HOKAGE WAS ROOTED...
...IN THE TEACHINGS OF YOUR GRAND-FATHER.

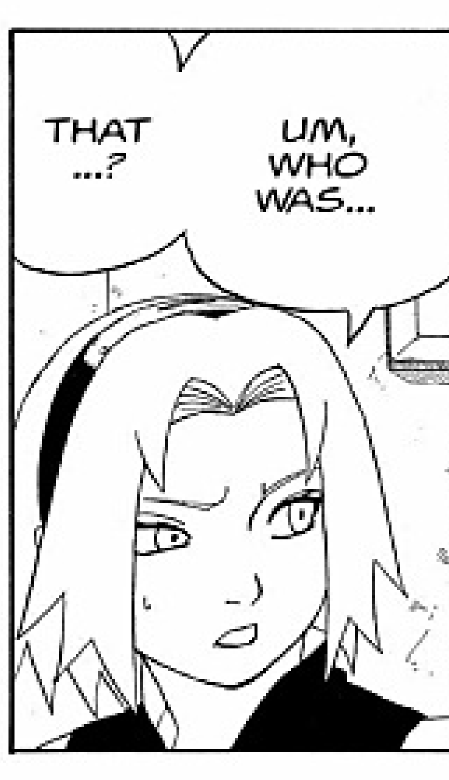




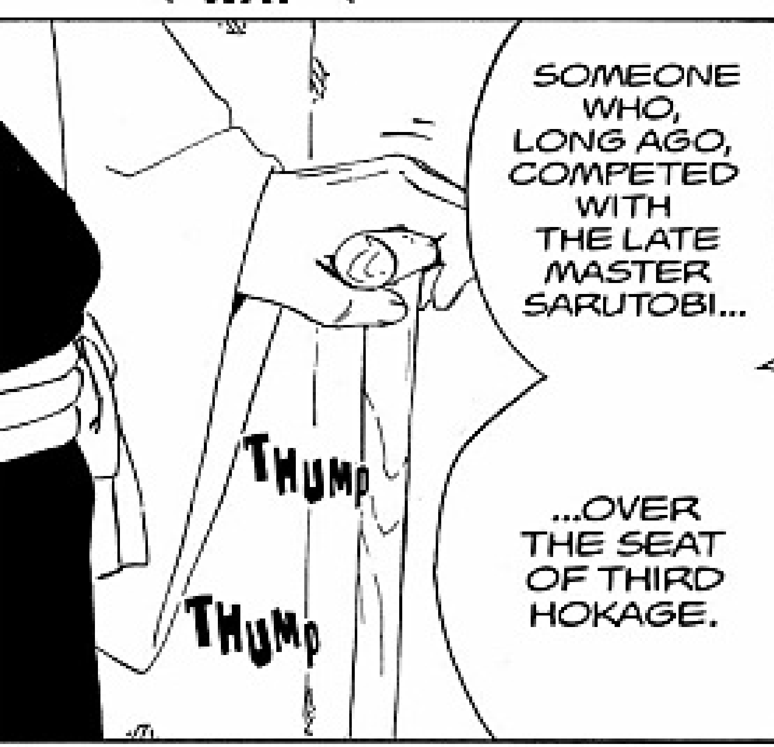

IN ANY CASE, I AM RELIEVED.
NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...
... PRIN-CESS ...
WHIRL

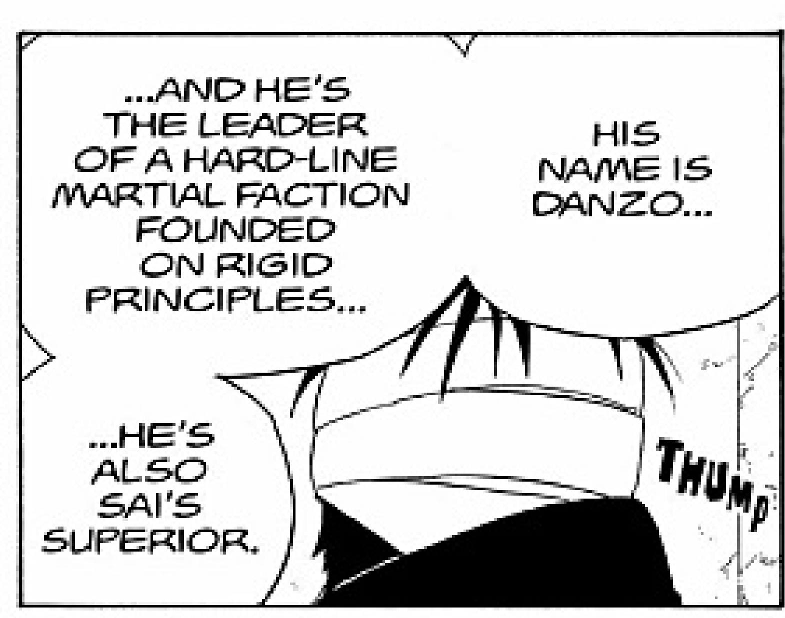

CLUNK...

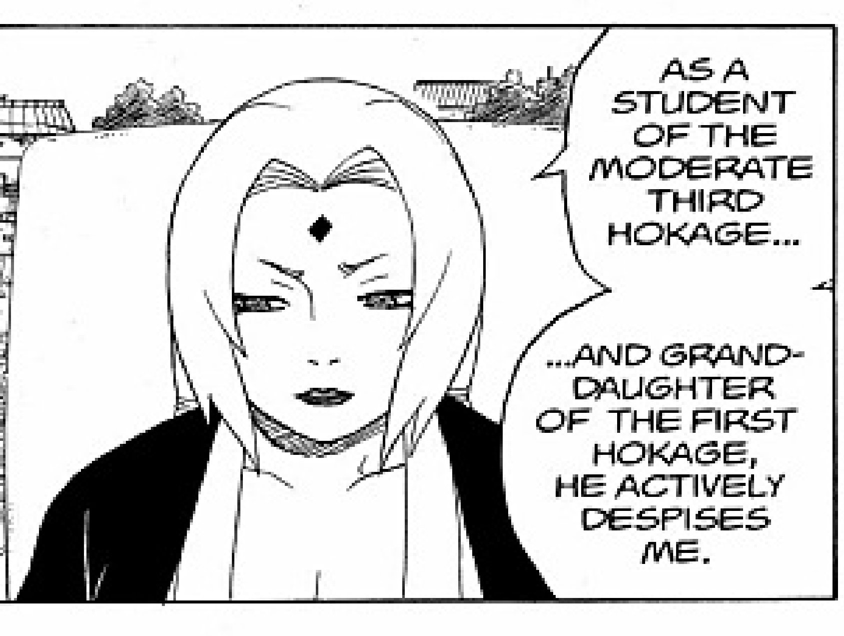

READ THIS WAY

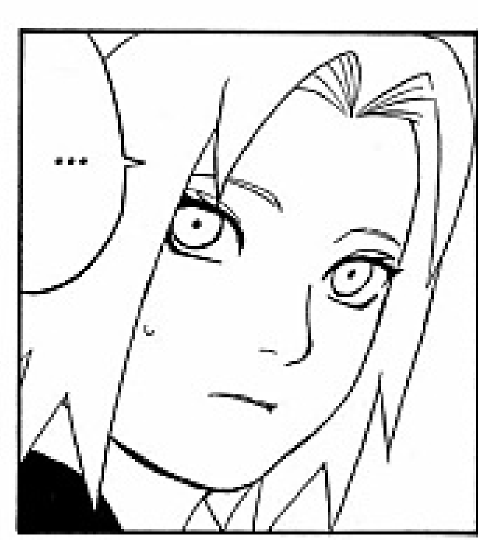

UM, WHO WAS...
THAT ...?


...

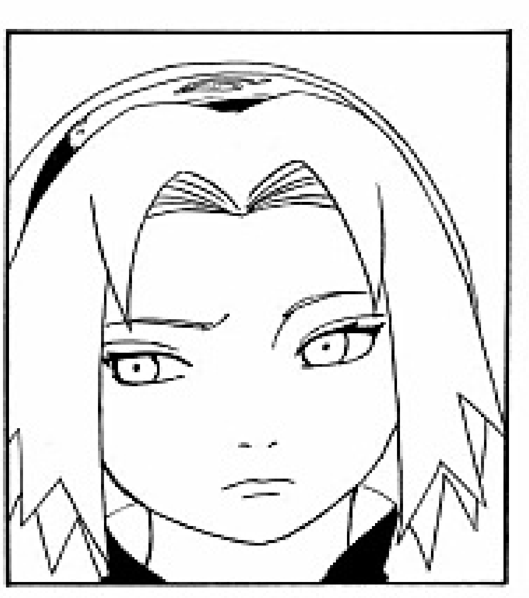

SOMEONE WHO, LONG AGO, COMPETED WITH THE LATE MASTER SARUTOBI...
...OVER THE SEAT OF THIRD HOKAGE.
THUMP
THUMP

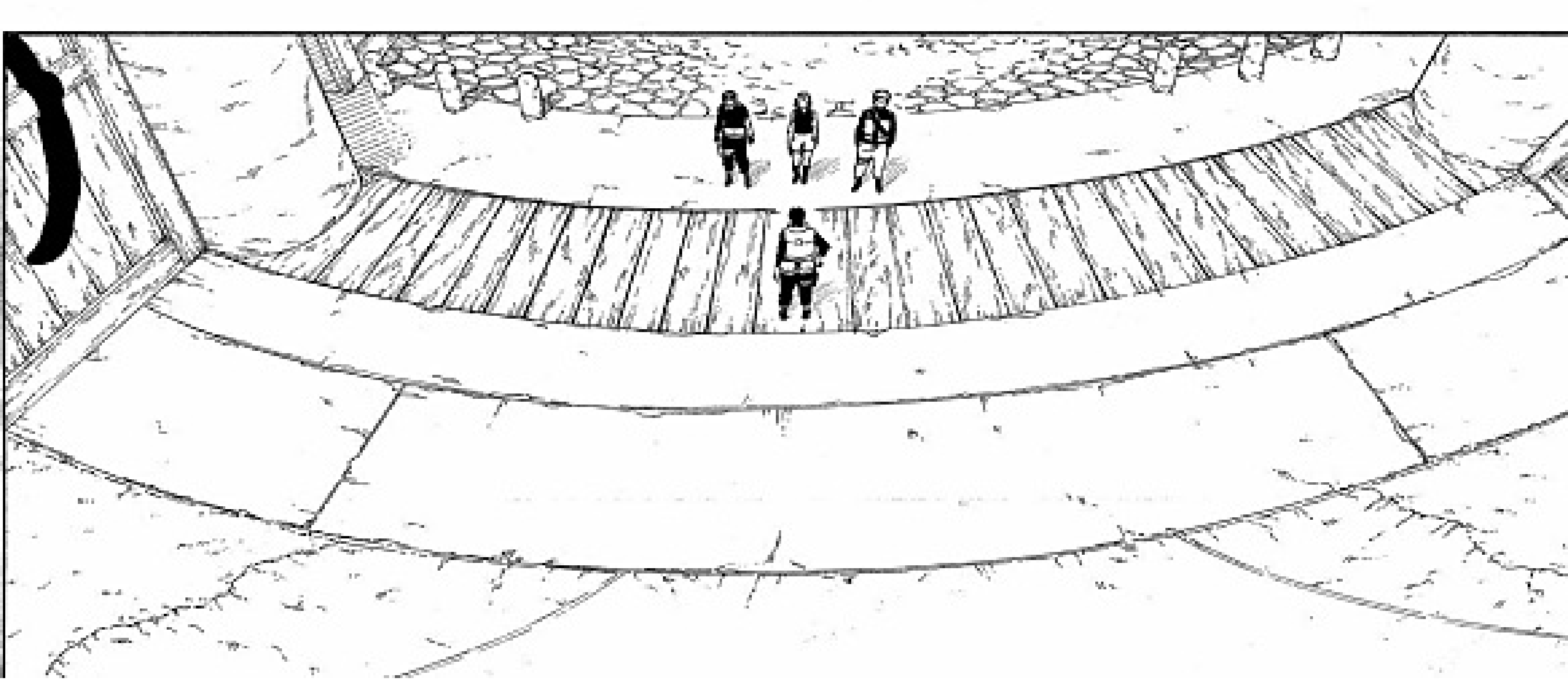

HIS NAME IS DANZO...
...AND HE'S THE LEADER OF A HARD-LINE MARTIAL FACTION FOUNDED ON RIGID PRINCIPLES...
...HE'S ALSO SAI'S SUPERIOR.
THUMP


AS A STUDENT OF THE MODERATE THIRD HOKAGE...
...AND GRAND-DAUGHTER OF THE FIRST HOKAGE, HE ACTIVELY DESPISES ME.


...


IT'S BEEN ALMOST AN HOUR, SAKURA...
YES, MA'AM ...
...TIME TO GO...



...
OKAY, PEOPLE ...THIS IS IT!
GO TEAM KAKASHI!

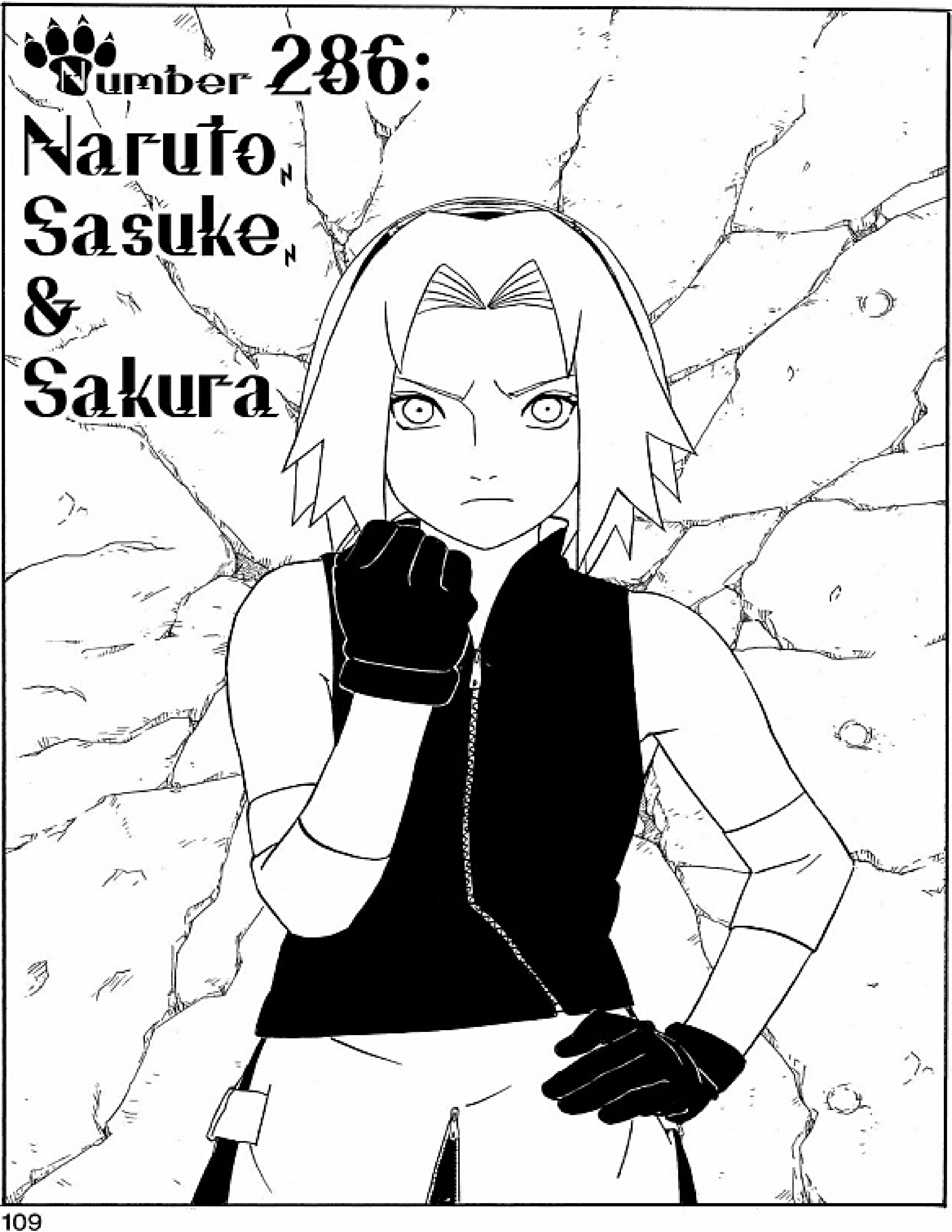
NARUTO

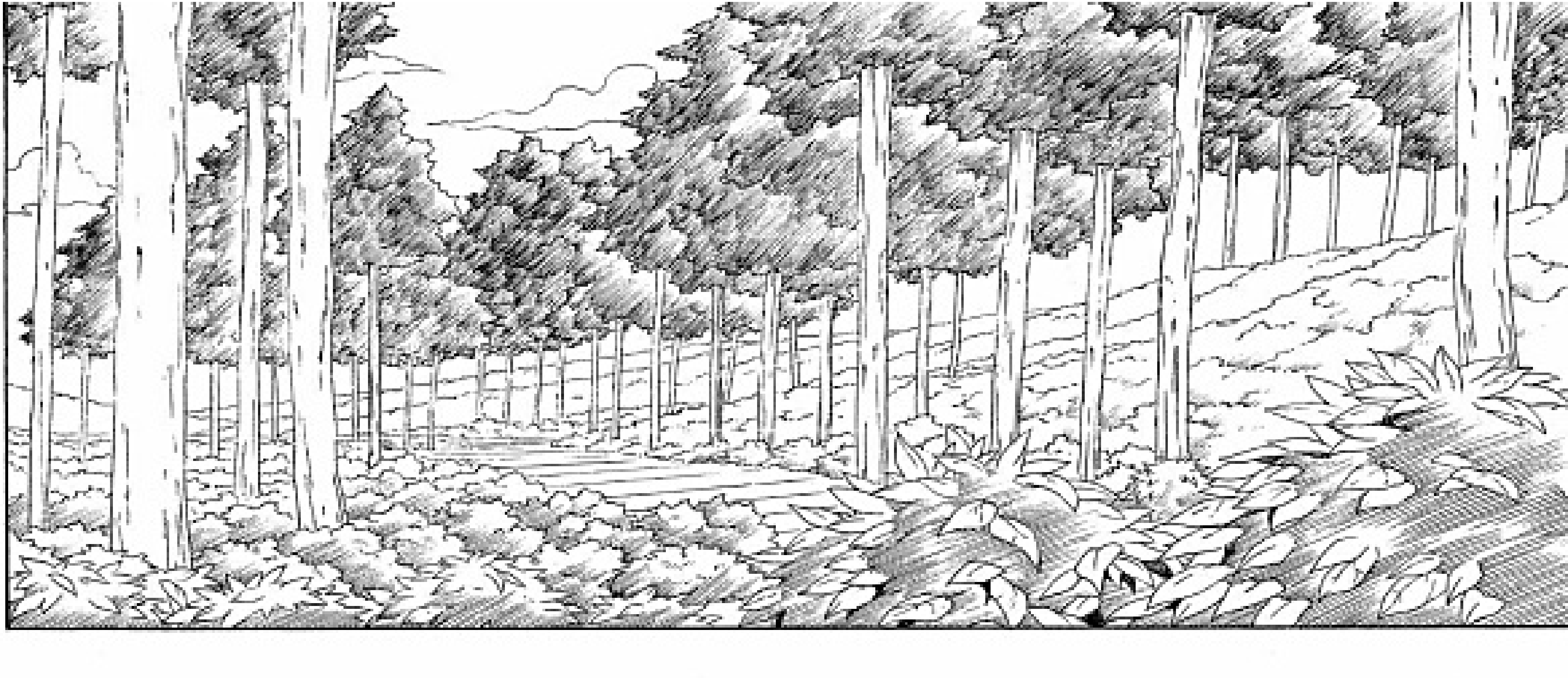
6th Anniversary!!



'05, 11, 8 大久保彰

OHKUBO AKIRA


Number 286:
Naruto,
Sasuke,
&
Sakura

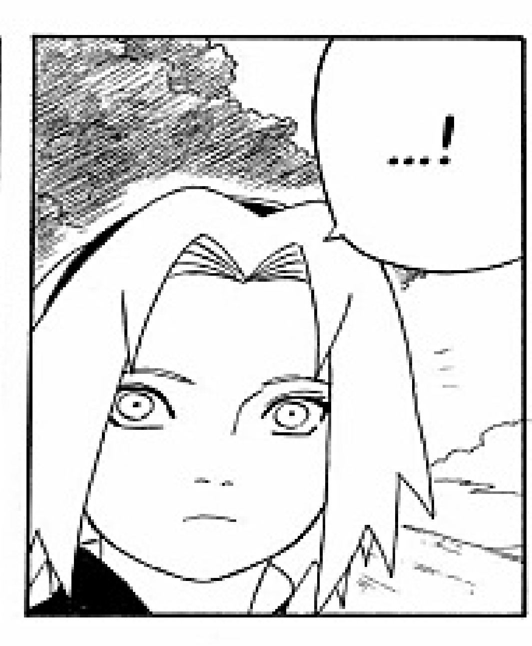



GRRRR...


...
THUP
THUP


WHAT?


READ THIS WAY

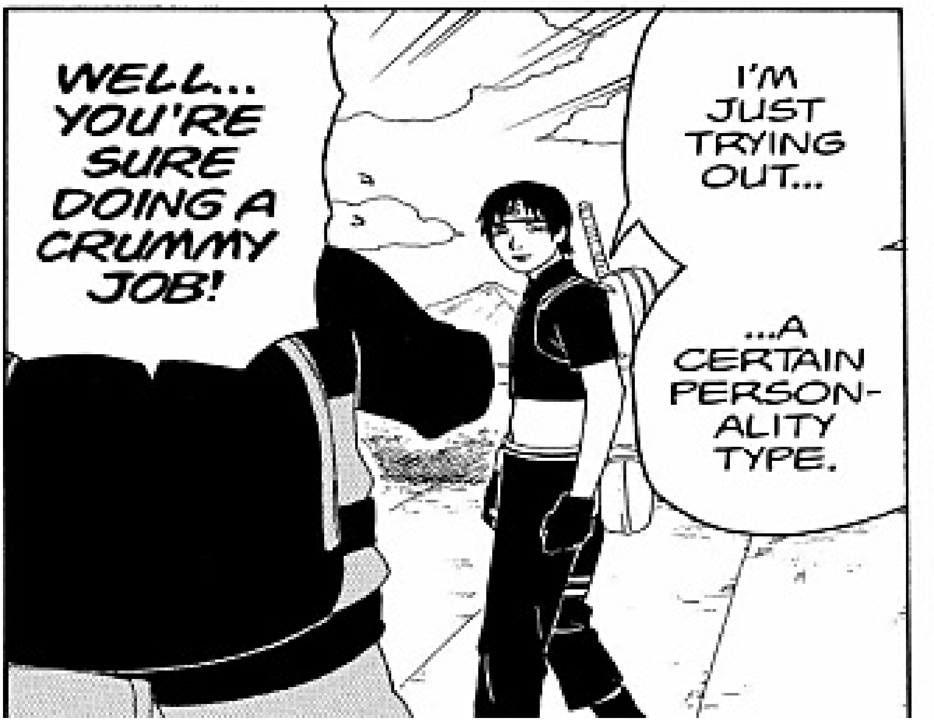

...!


FUNNY, BUT THE MORE I LOOK AT HIM, THE MORE HE DOES KINDA RESEMBLE SASUKE...
...SORTA SOUNDS LIKE HIM TOO...


IF YOU KEEP LOOKING AT ME...
I WILL HIT YOU.


WHAT? YOU THINK I'M SCARED OF YOU?
I TAKE IT BACK. HE IS SOOOO NOT SASUKE!
GRR


LOOK, I REALLY DON'T HAVE ANYTHING PERSONAL AGAINST YOU.
YEAH, RIGHT...


I'M JUST TRYING OUT...
...A CERTAIN PERSON-ALITY TYPE.
WELL... YOU'RE SURE DOING A CRUMMY JOB!

WE DON'T NEED SOMEONE LIKE YOU ON THIS TEAM!
IN FACT, I BET WE'D BE A LOT BETTER OFF WITHOUT YOU... JERK!



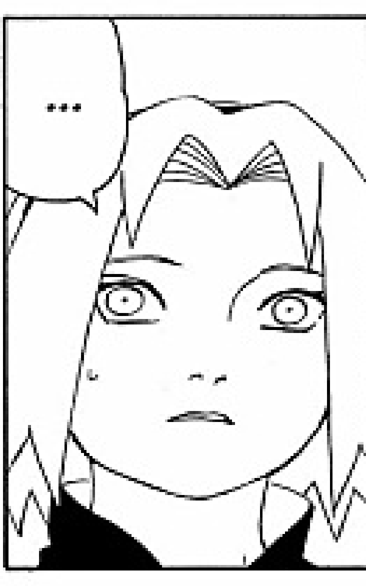




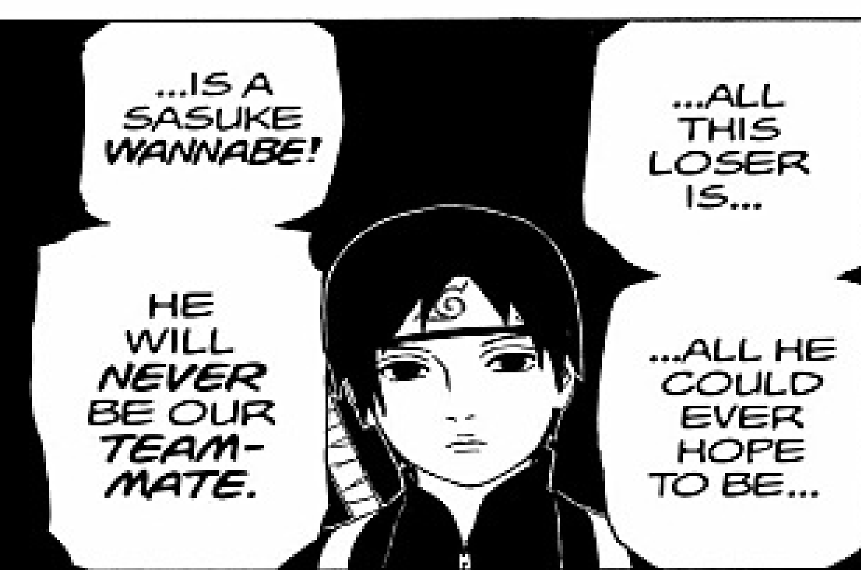


THE FOURTH MEMBER OF TEAM KAKASHI...

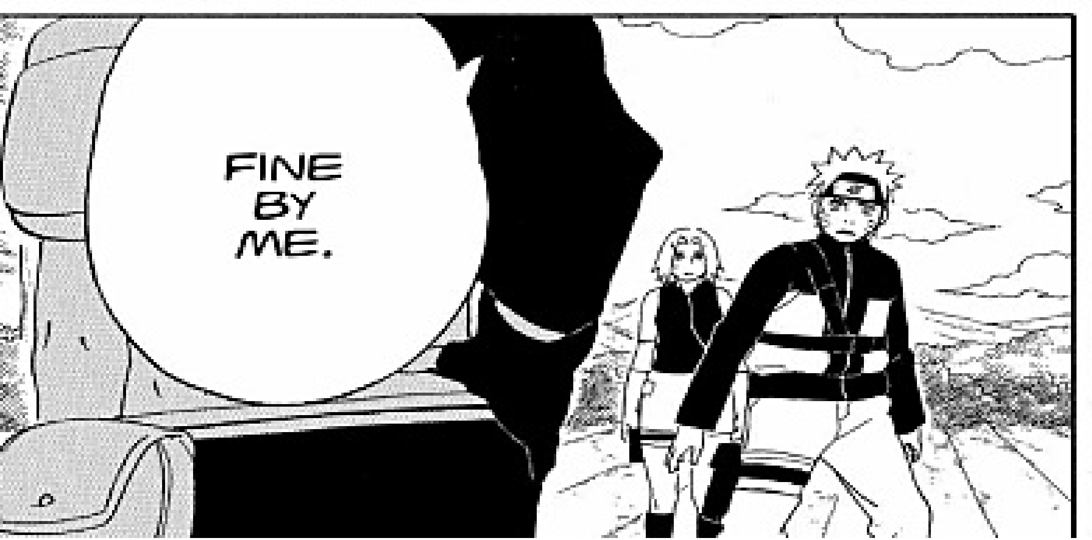
...IS UCHIHA SASUKE!!







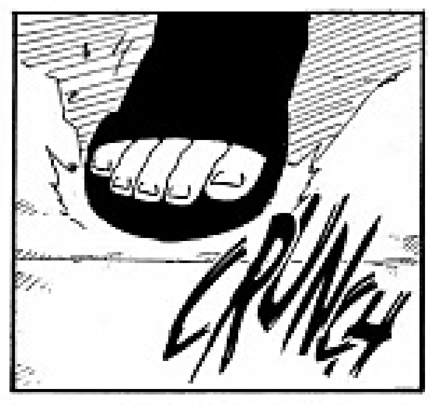


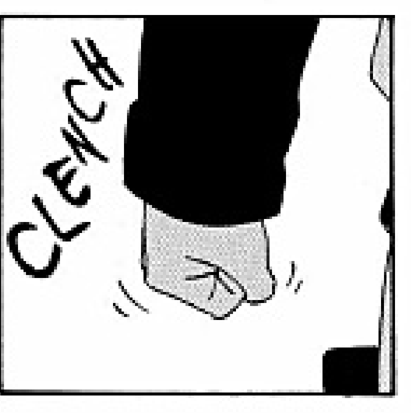



THE LAST PERSON I'D EVER WANT TO BE COMPARED TO...
...IS SOME TRAITOROUS COCK-ROACH...

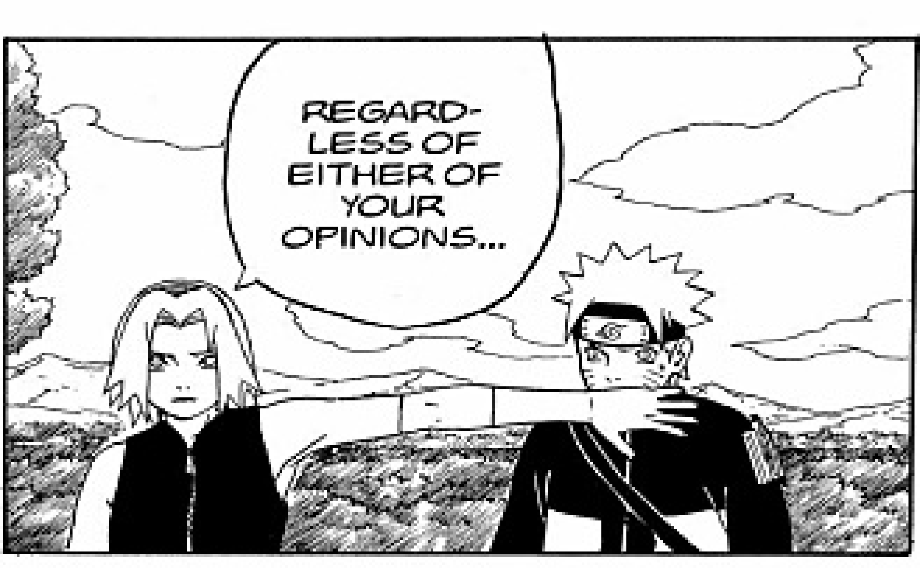

...WHO ABANDONED HIS VILLAGE FOR OROCHIMARU JUST BECAUSE...
...HE WANTED TO BECOME STRONGER...


HOW DARE YOU...


CRUNCH

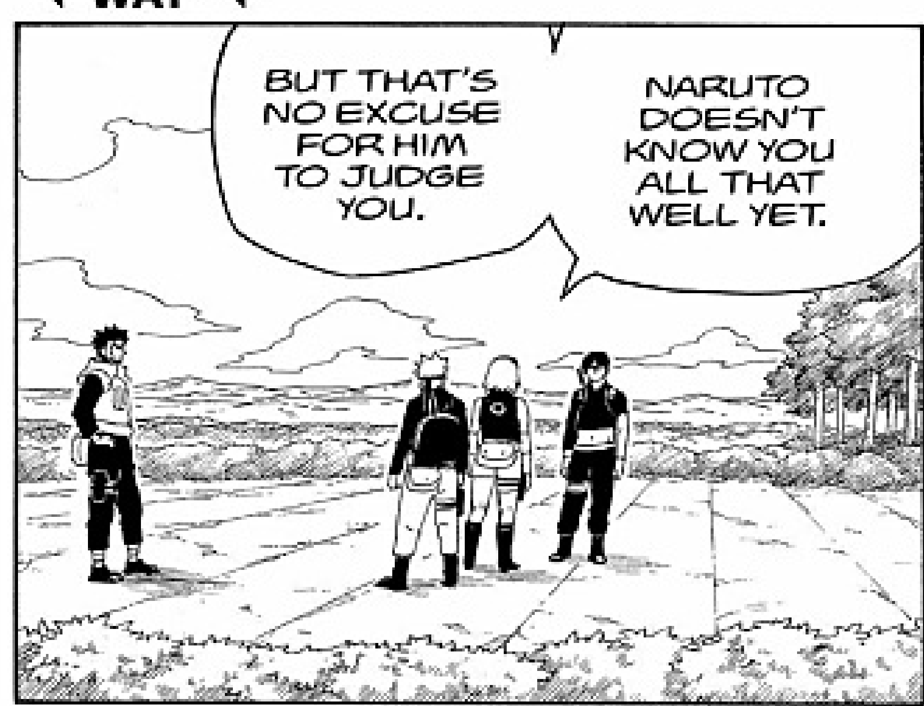

CLENCH

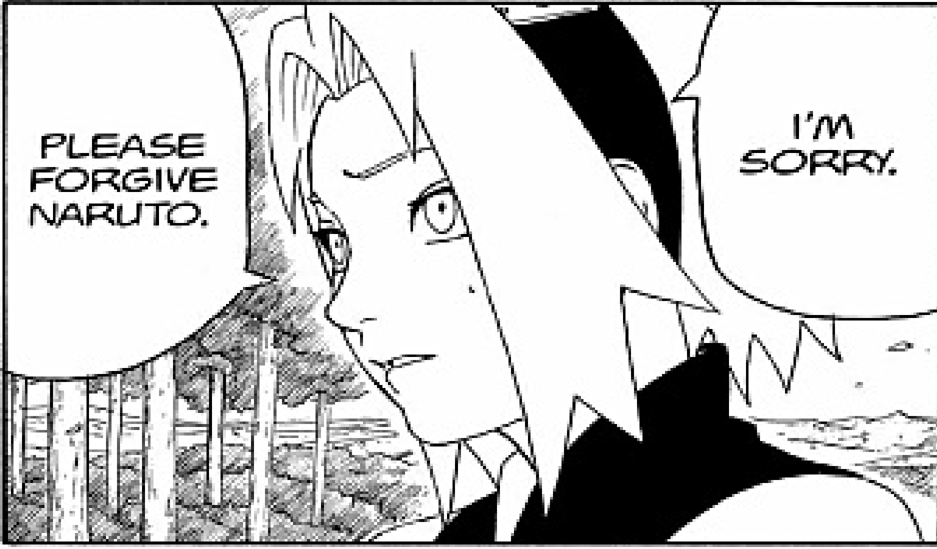

!
BLOCK


REGARD-LESS OF EITHER OF YOUR OPINIONS...


READ THIS WAY




NARUTO DOESN'T KNOW YOU ALL THAT WELL YET.
BUT THAT'S NO EXCUSE FOR HIM TO JUDGE YOU.


I'M SORRY.
PLEASE FORGIVE NARUTO.


S... SAKURA ...


WHEW ...
GOOD TO SEE THERE'S AT LEAST ONE LEVELHEADED PERSON ON THIS TEAM.


HEY, LIKE I SAID... FINE BY ME.


REALLY ...?
...OH, GOOD.


?!
WHAM!
?!

CRASH

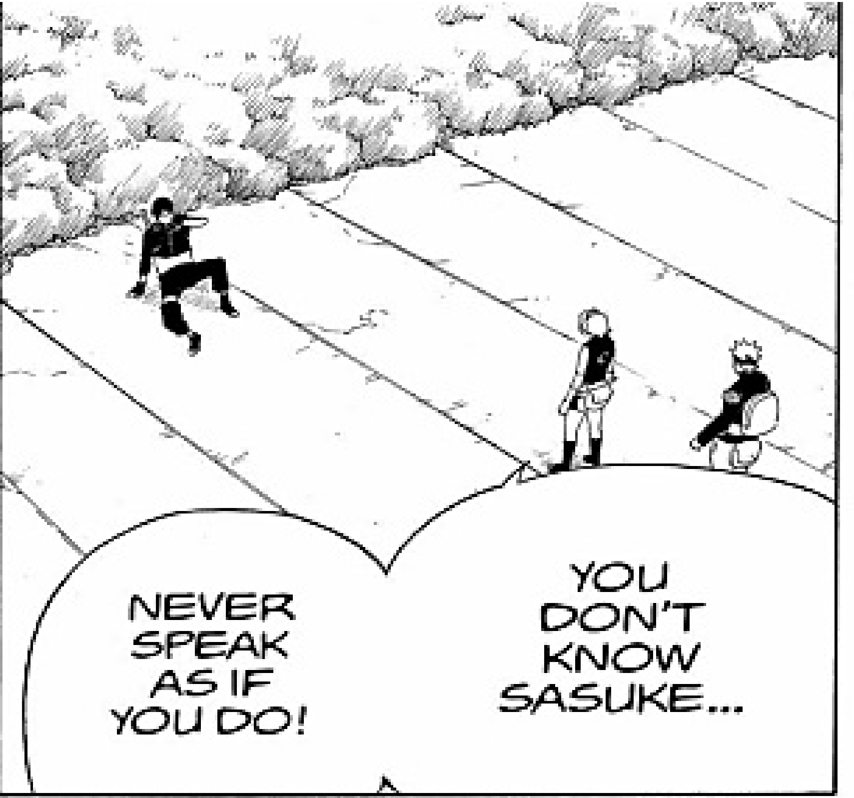






I DON'T CARE...

...IF YOU FORGIVE ME.


YOU DON'T KNOW SASUKE...
NEVER SPEAK AS IF YOU DO!

AH...
YOUR SMILE WAS A FAKE...

JUST KEEP BAD-MOUTHING SASUKE ...
...NEXT TIME I WON'T HOLD BACK..

...

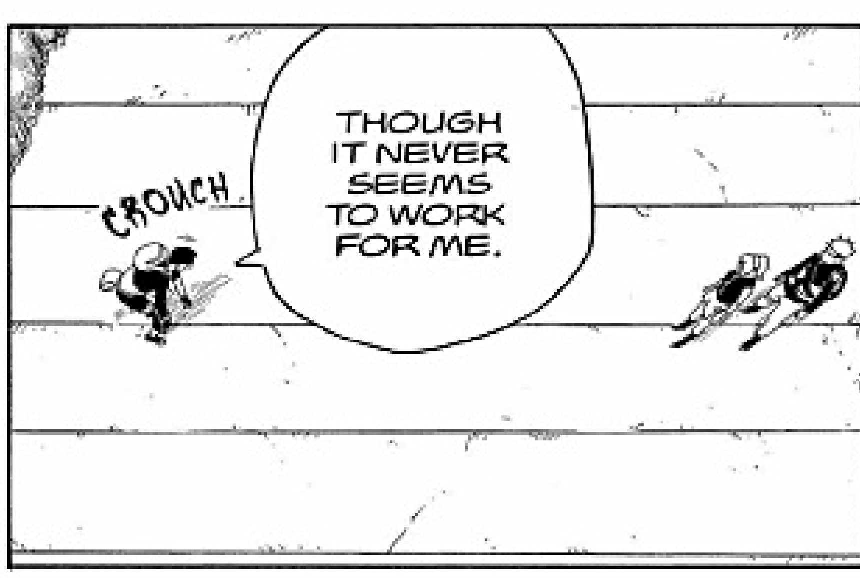
...BUT, THAT CLEVER USE OF A FAKE SMILE...
...I'LL HAVE TO REMEM-BER THAT.

HO HO... OKAY...I'LL KEEP MY MOUTH SHUT...

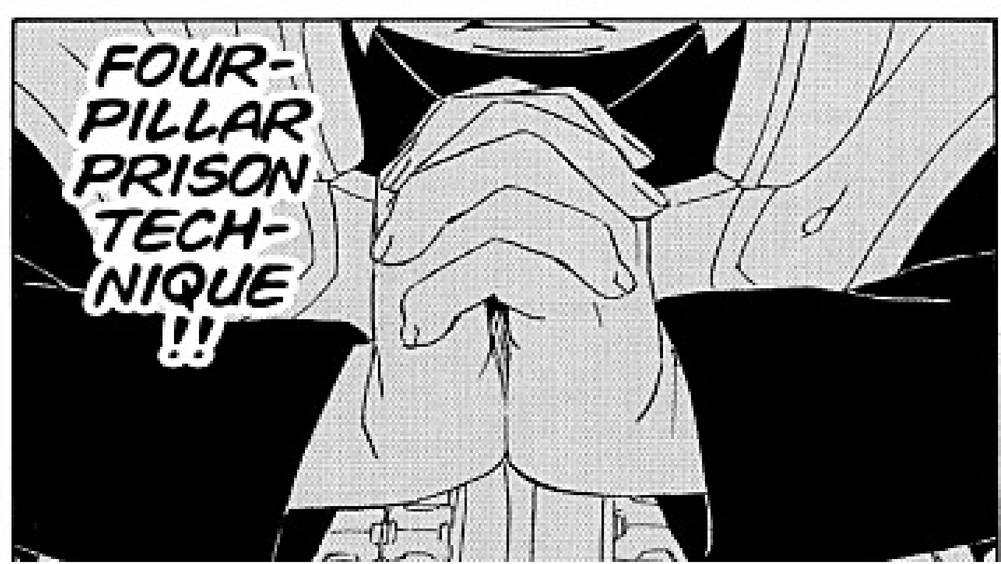

READ THIS WAY


WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
HOW STUPID ARE YOU?!


"THE BEST WAY TO DEFUSE A TROUBLE-SOME SITUATION IS BY SMILING...
"...EVEN IF IT IS A FAKE SMILE...
"...IT WILL FOOL MORE PEOPLE THAN YOU THINK."
...OR SO I'VE READ.


THOUGH IT NEVER SEEMS TO WORK FOR ME.
CROUCH


...
...


FOUR-PILLAR PRISON TECH-NIQUE!!

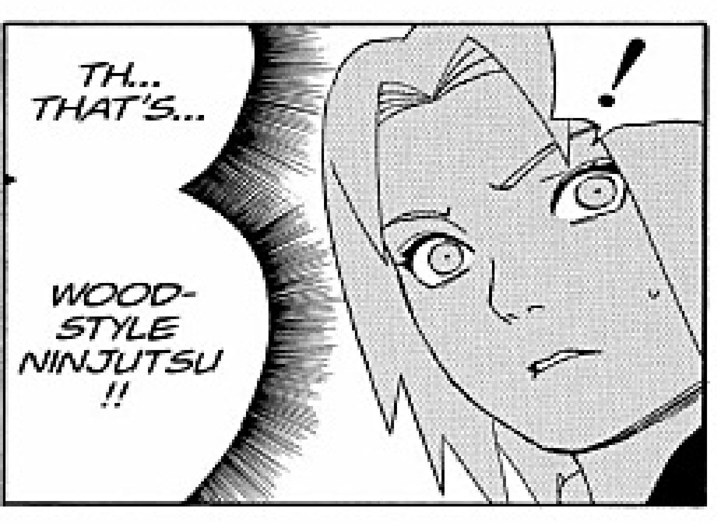

SPROK
CRACK CRACK

SLAM


WE ONLY HAVE FIVE DAYS TO GET TO TENCHI BRIDGE.
KEEP IT UP, YOU THREE... AND I'LL THROW YOU ***ALL*** IN A CAGE!

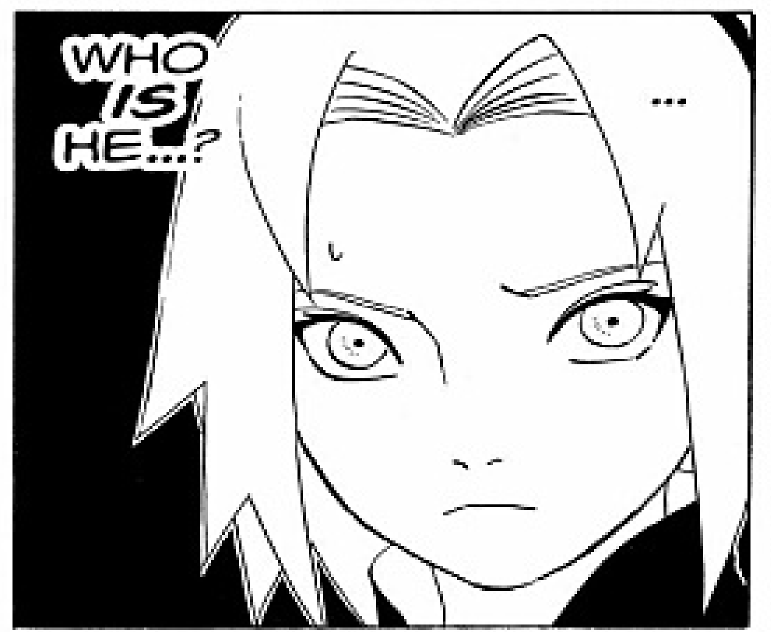

...!


...

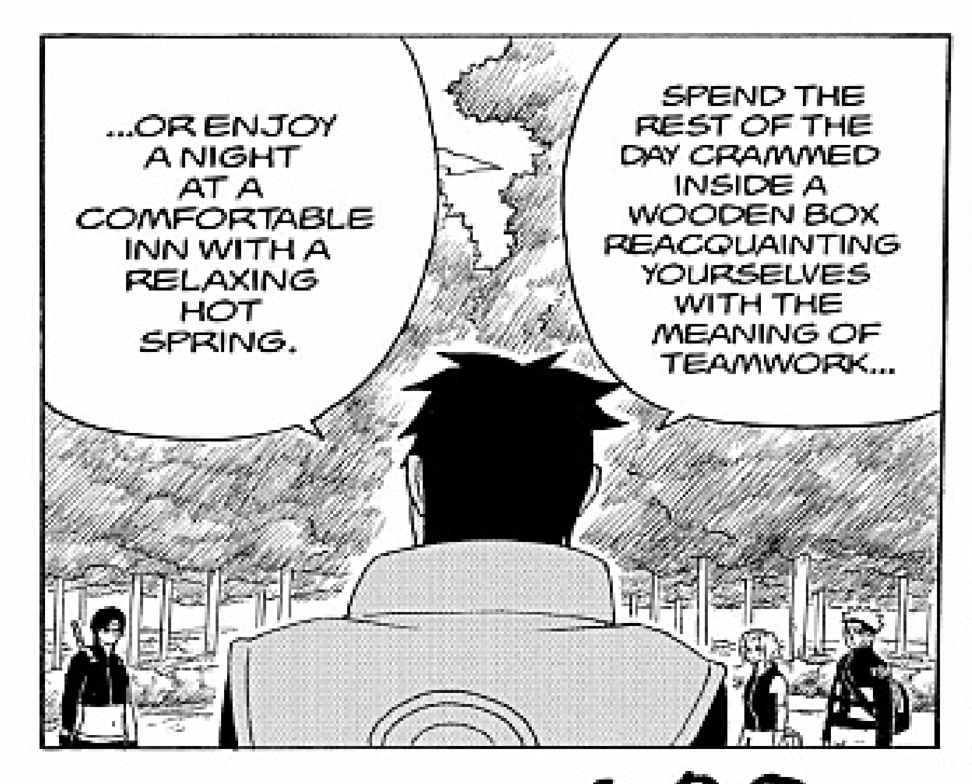

!
TH... THAT'S...
WOOD-STYLE NINJUTSU!!


READ THIS WAY


...A SECRET JUTSU KNOWN ONLY TO THE FIRST HOKAGE ...!
...SO HOW DOES COMMANDER YAMATO KNOW IT...?


...
WHO IS HE...?

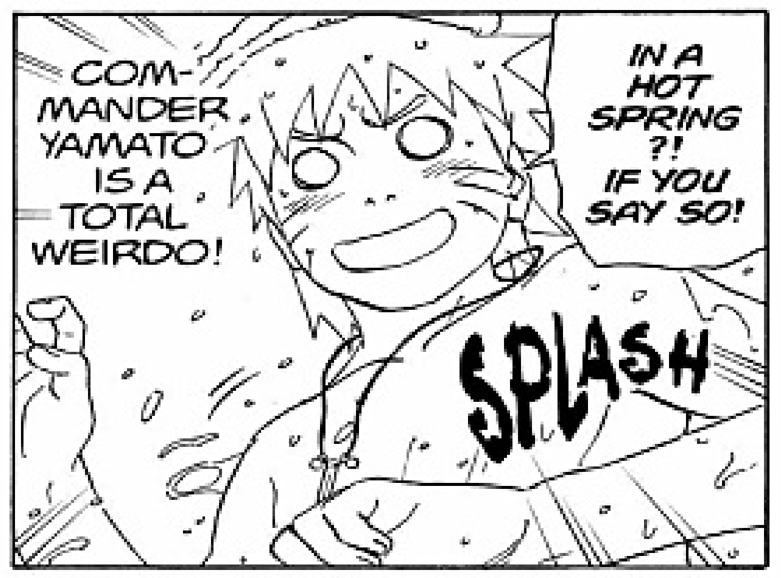

NOW, I'LL GIVE YOU...
TWO CHOICES.


SPEND THE REST OF THE DAY CRAMMED INSIDE A WOODEN BOX REACQUAINTING YOURSELVES WITH THE MEANING OF TEAMWORK...
...OR ENJOY A NIGHT AT A COMFORTABLE INN WITH A RELAXING HOT SPRING.


YOU DON'T REALLY KNOW ME EITHER...
LOO——M
I PREFER THE KIND AND GENTLE APPROACH, BUT I'M...
...NOT AGAINST USING MORE DRACONIAN METHODS WHEN NECESSARY...


AAH...
...NOW, THIS IS A MUCH BETTER WAY TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER!
...
...


LOOM
...
...
DON'T YOU MEN THINK?


IN A HOT SPRING?! IF YOU SAY SO!
COM-MANDER YAMATO IS A TOTAL WEIRDO!
SPLASH


...
HUH, FANCY THAT...
NARUTO IS A BOY AFTER ALL.



...!

OKAY, FIRST OF ALL...!

I AM NOT COMFORTABLE IN THIS SETTING AT ALL!

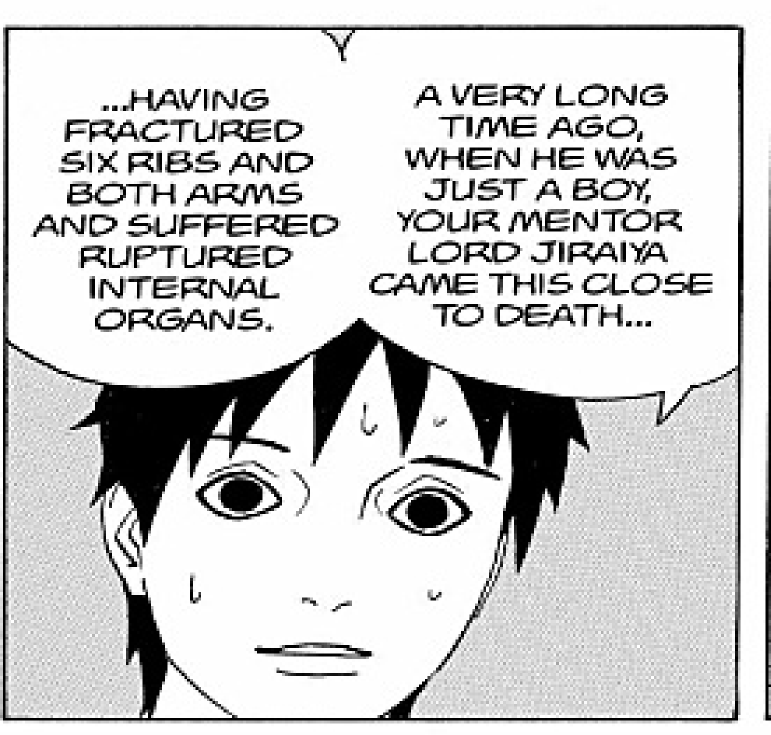
TEE-HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE

COME ON, NARUTO... LOWER YOUR VOICE, WILL YOU?!


TEE-HEE HEE HEE HEE!
!

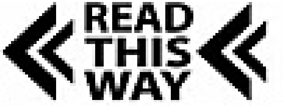

GRIN


WELL, THAT'S ENOUGH BONDING FOR ME...
...BUT BEFORE I GO, LET ME SHARE A FUNNY STORY WITH YOU, NARUTO.
SNEAK

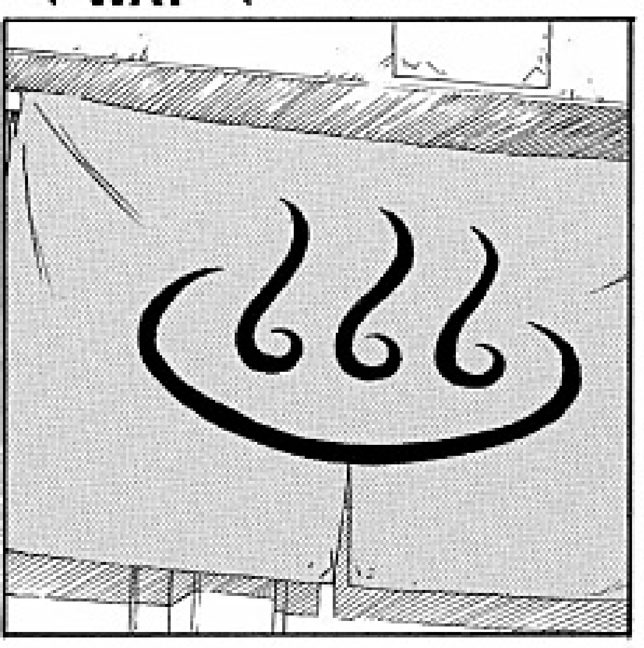

A VERY LONG TIME AGO, WHEN HE WAS JUST A BOY, YOUR MENTOR LORD JIRAIYA CAME THIS CLOSE TO DEATH...
...HAVING FRACTURED SIX RIBS AND BOTH ARMS AND SUFFERED RUPTURED INTERNAL ORGANS.


THE REASON? SUPPOSEDLY... LADY TSUNADE FOUND OUT THAT HE DID...
...PRECISELY WHAT YOU'RE CONTEM-PLATING RIGHT ABOUT NOW.


SO BEFORE YOU HOP OUT OF THAT SPRING...
...I SUGGEST YOU STOP AND THINK...

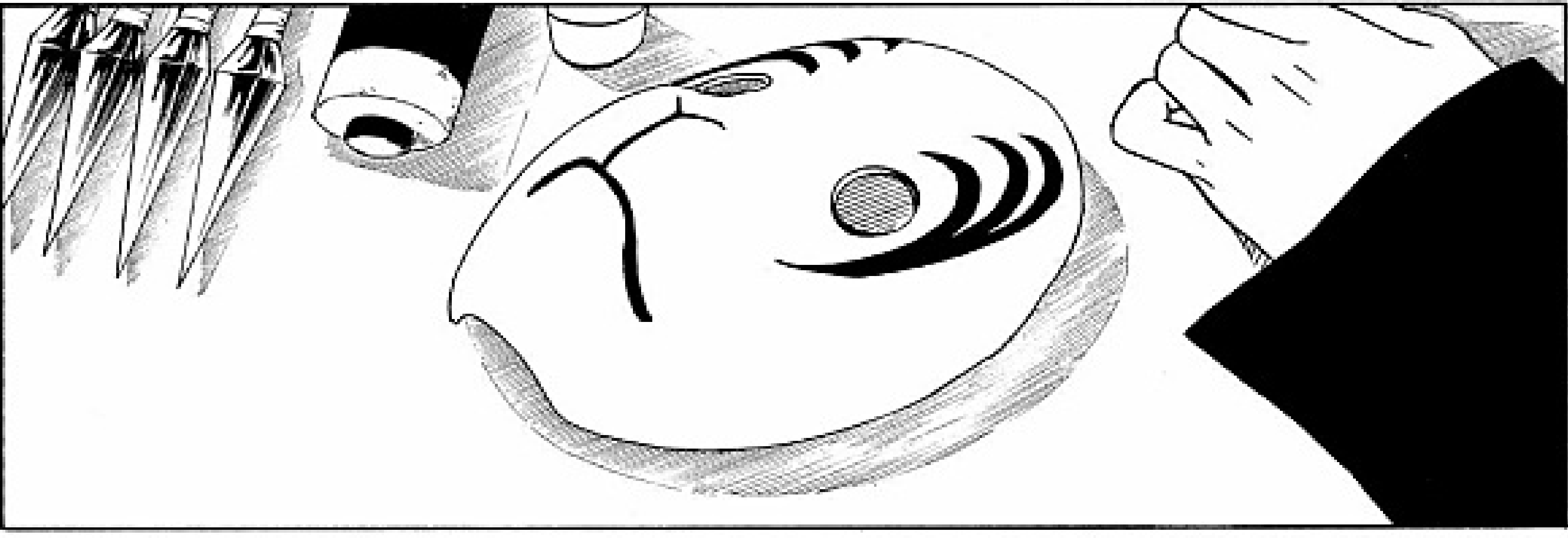

READ
THIS
WAY


...HOW WOULD SAKURA REACT ...
...IN THAT VERY SAME SITUATION...?
DRIP DRIP DRIP DRIP






...A GREAT CHANGE ...
...IS ON THE WIND...

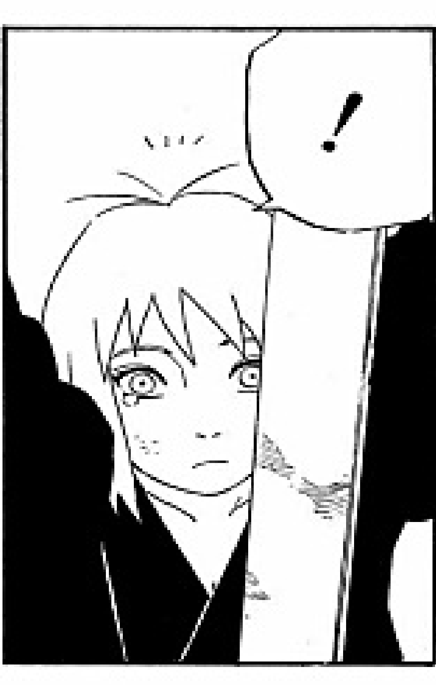


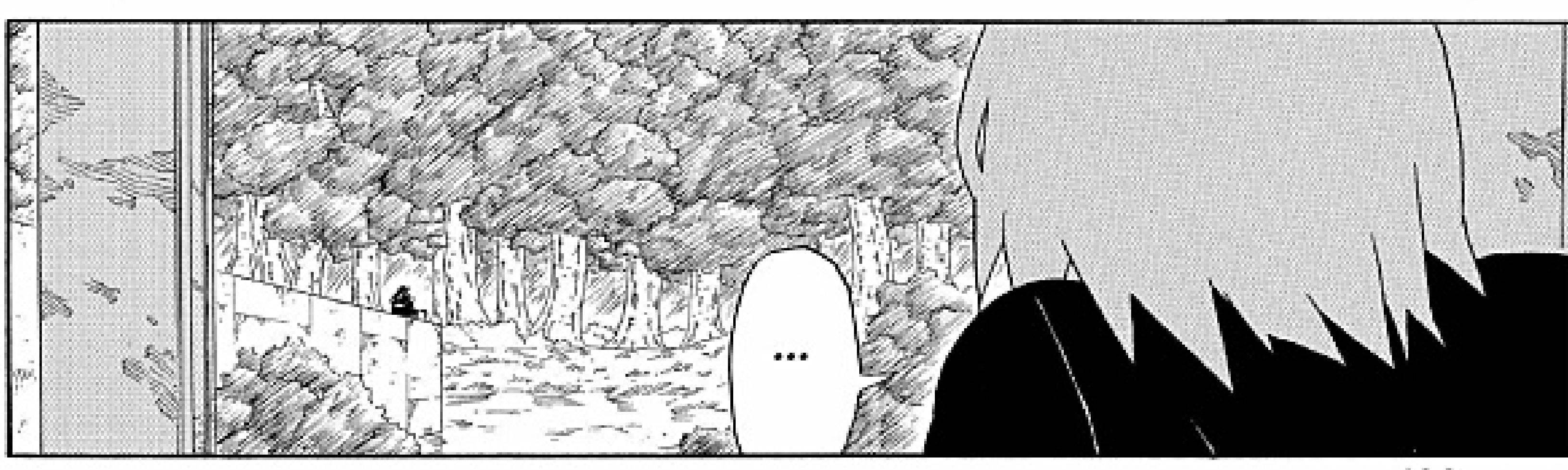

NARUTO 6th ANNIVERSARY!!
H17. 11. 8
ITAKURA YÜICHI

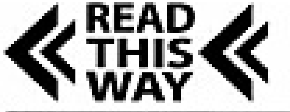
Number 287: Untitled

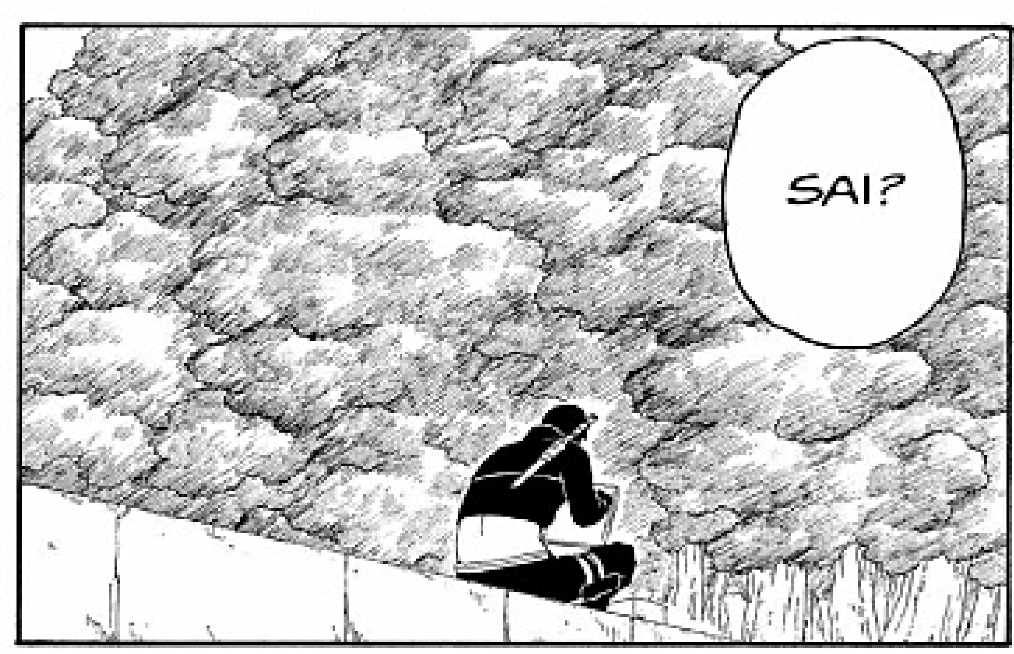


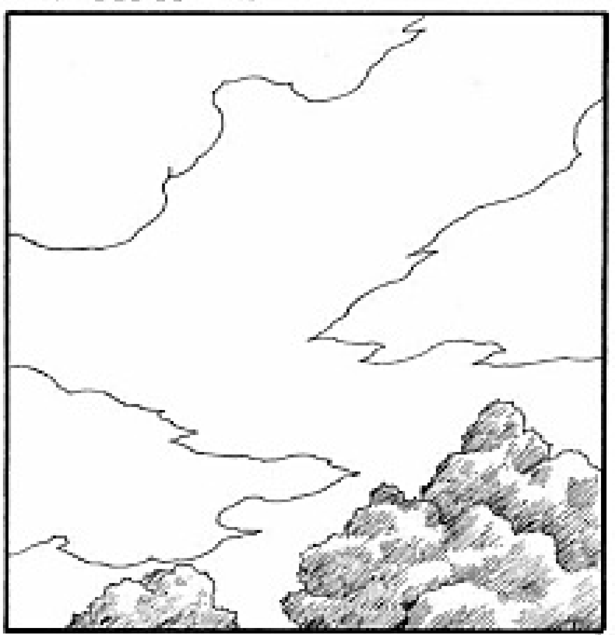

MMMM ...!
NOTHING LIKE A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP!


!

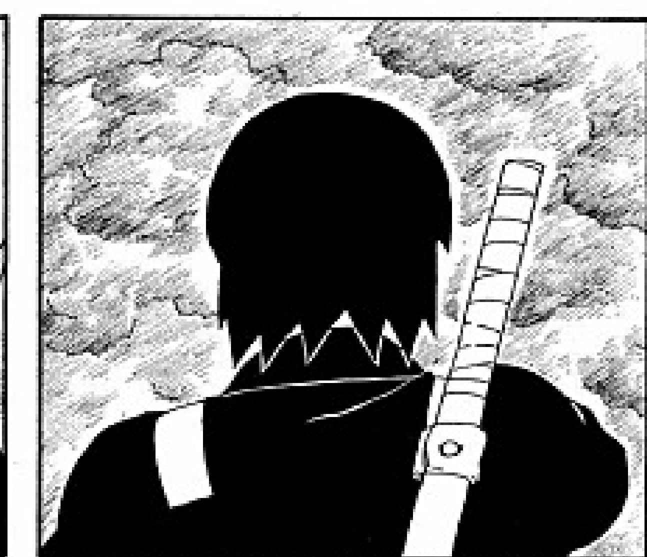

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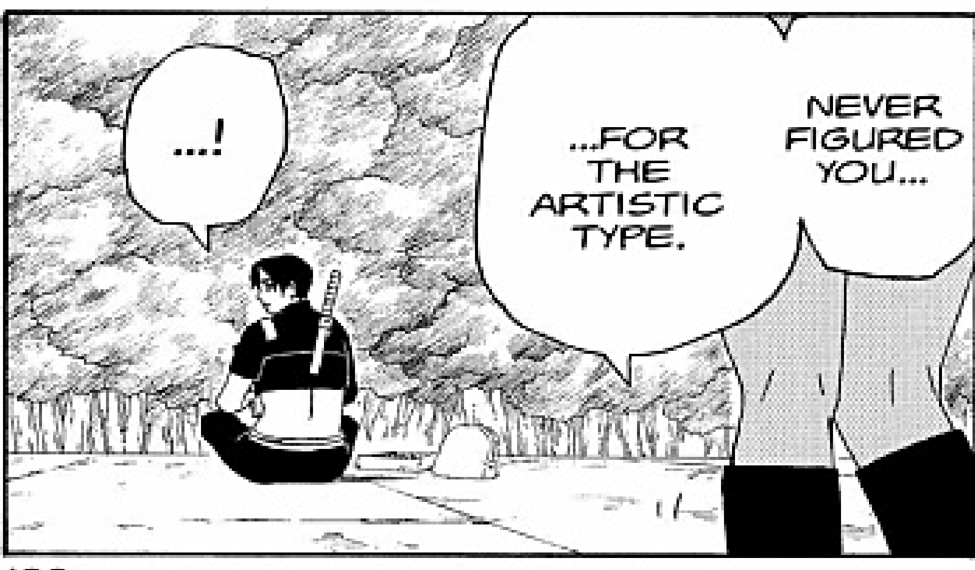




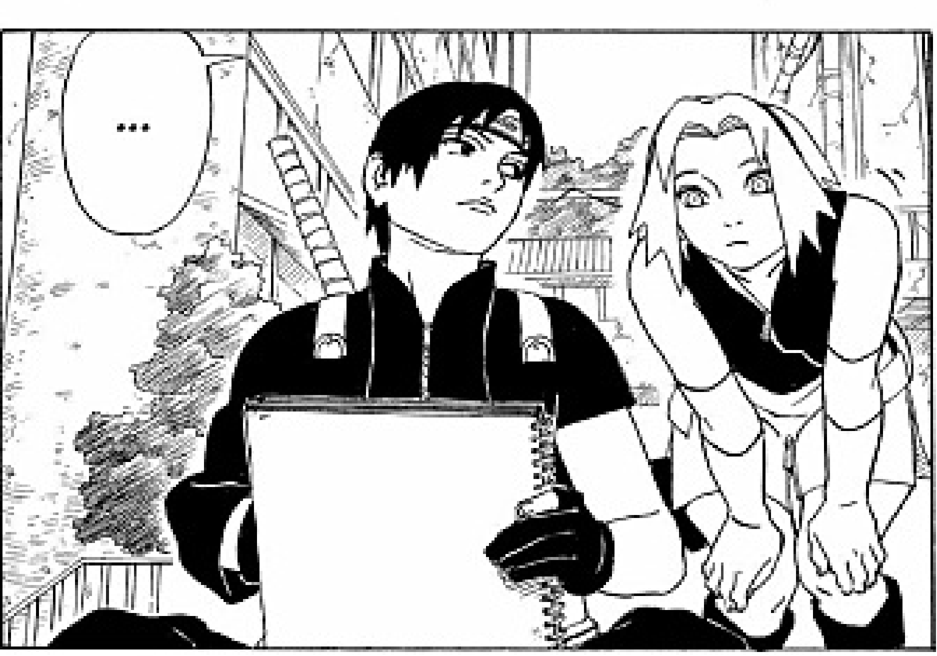


SCRITCH SCRITCH





...

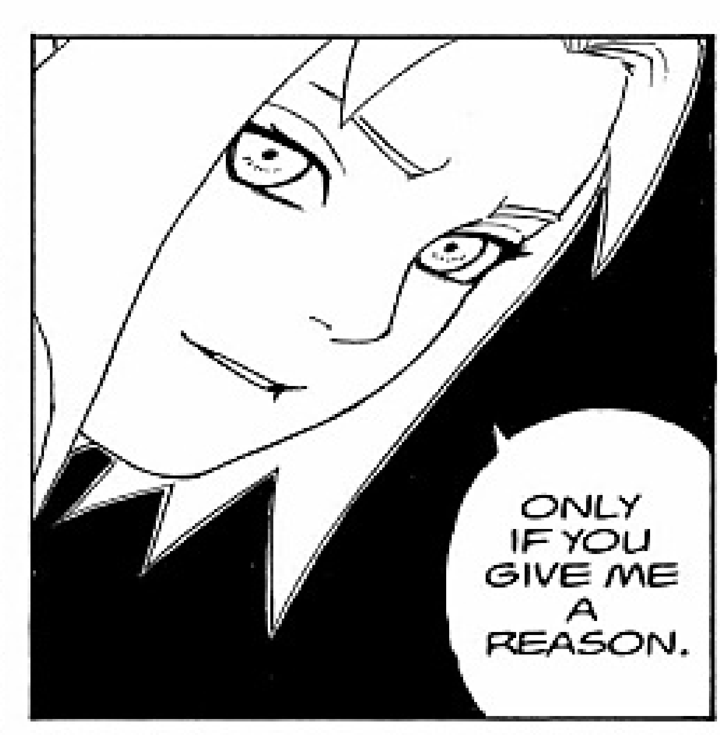

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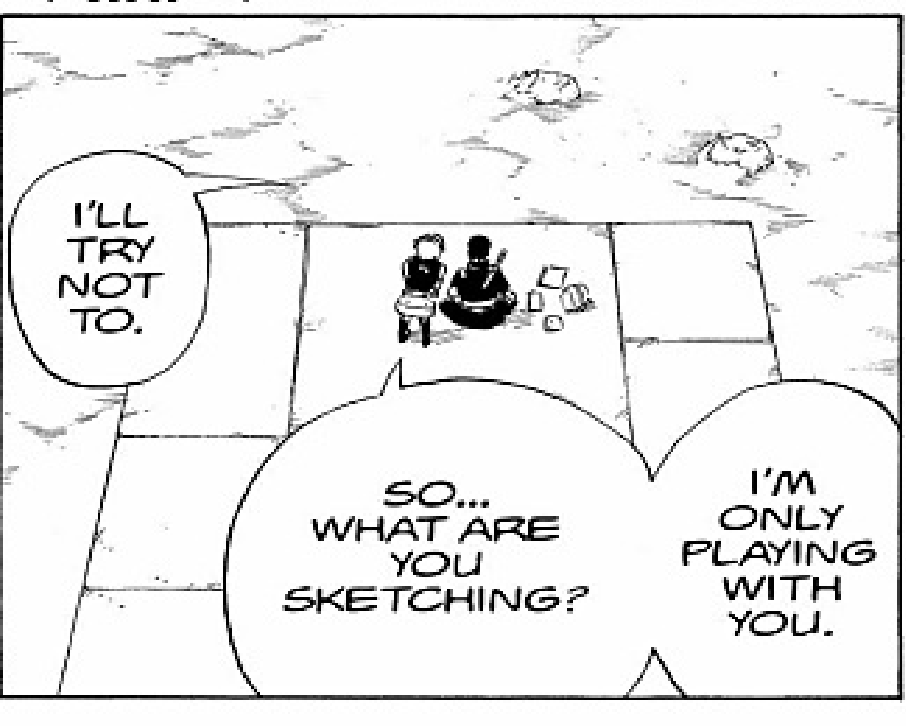

LOOKS CAN BE DECEIV-ING.

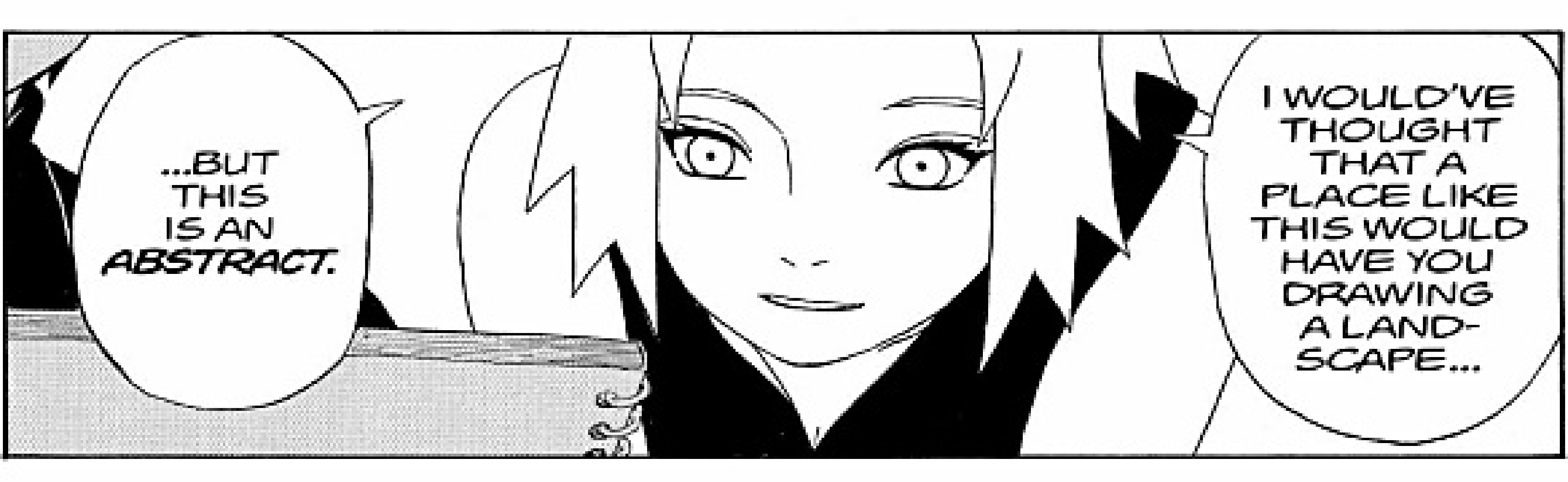

DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE...
...GONNA SLUG ME NOW?
THAT FAKE SMILE AGAIN...


DON'T I KNOW IT. Y'KNOW, FOR SOMEONE SO ROUGH ON THE OUTSIDE...
...YOU SEEM PRETTY SENSITIVE ON THE INSIDE.


READ THIS WAY


ONLY IF YOU GIVE ME A REASON.


I'M ONLY PLAYING WITH YOU.
SO... WHAT ARE YOU SKETCHING?
I'LL TRY NOT TO.


I WOULD'VE THOUGHT THAT A PLACE LIKE THIS WOULD HAVE YOU DRAWING A LAND-SCAPE...
...BUT THIS IS AN *ABSTRACT.*

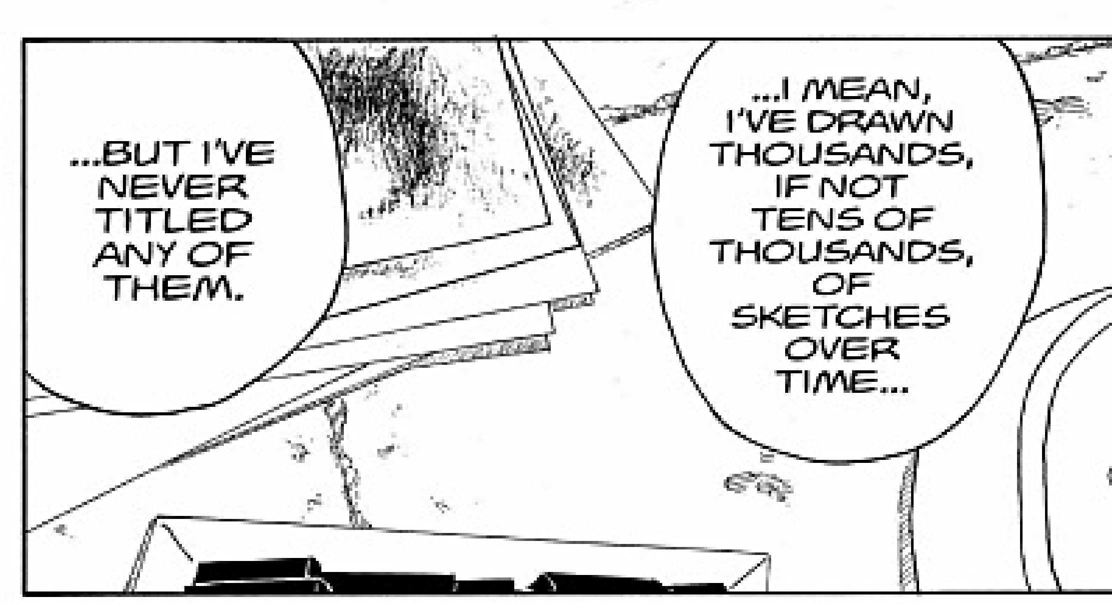

IT'S STILL NICE...
WHAT ARE YOU CALLING IT?

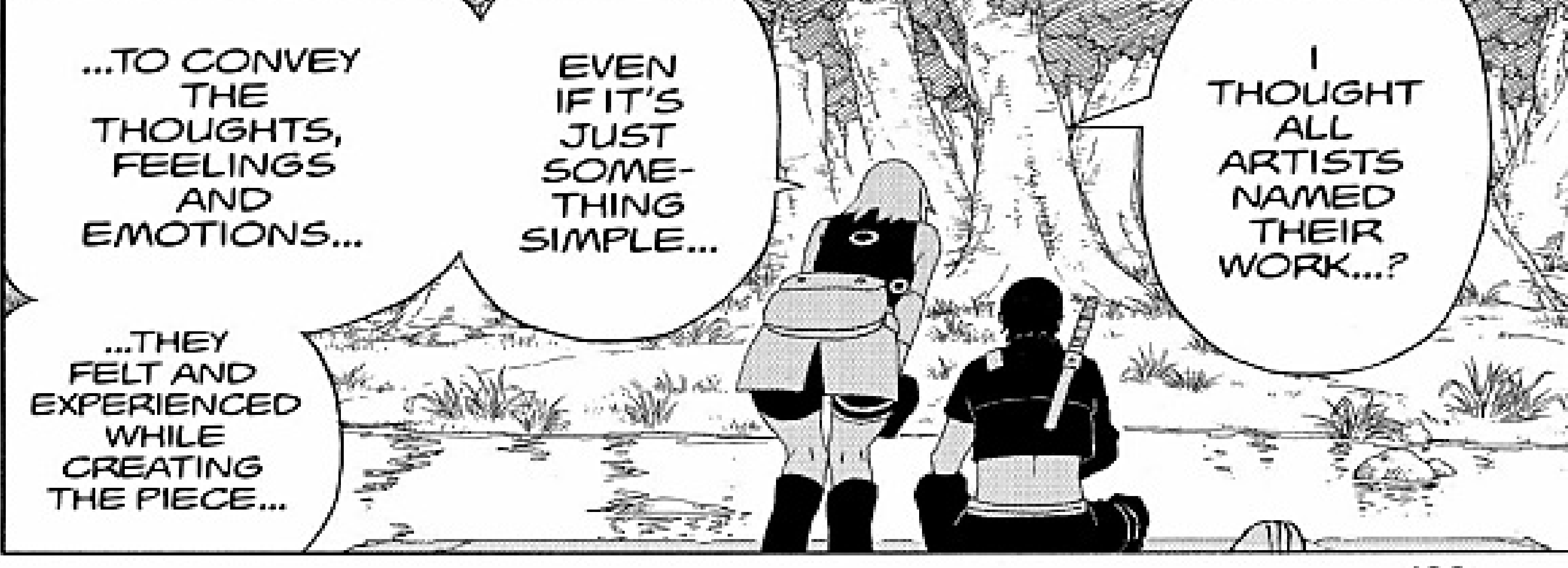

...DON'T KNOW...


YOU DON'T HAVE A TITLE FOR IT YET?

THERE IS NO TITLE...








READ THIS WAY


SCRITCH


...


... HONESTLY, WHENEVER I TRY TO GIVE THEM TITLES...
...NOTHING GOOD COMES TO MIND.

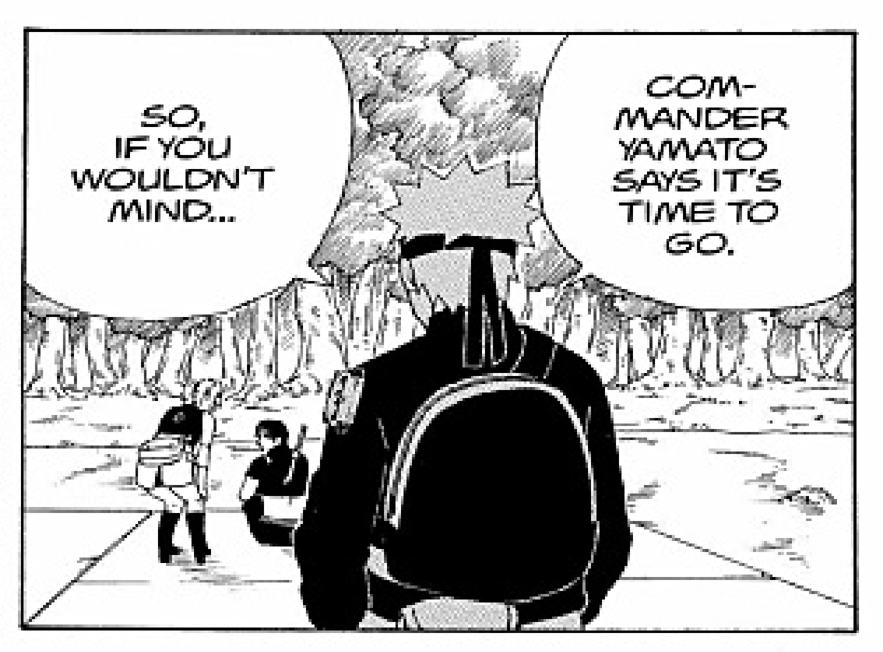

?

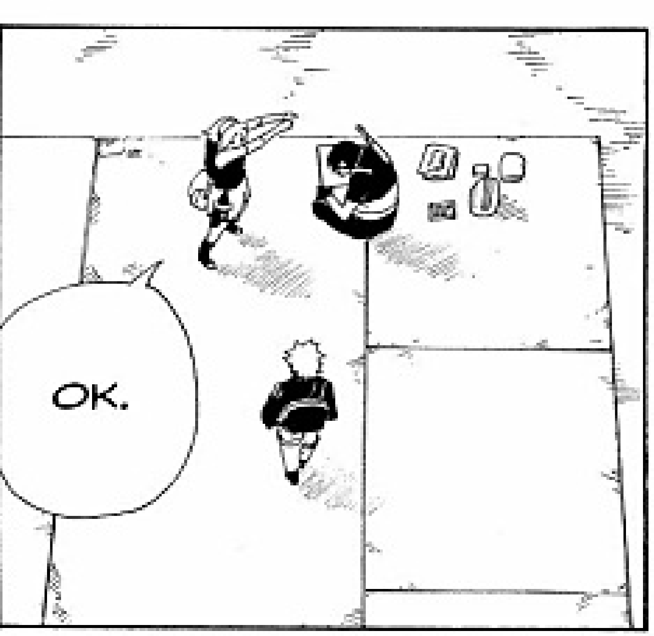

THE RIGHT WORDS... ESCAPE ME...
...AND I JUST DON'T FEEL... ANYTHING.





...IS THAT WHY YOU'RE SUCH AN INSENSITIVE JERK...?










READ
THIS
WAY


SURE.
JUST LIKE YOU.


THAT'S IT! I'VE HAD IT!
I HATE YOU!!


...
UGH...


IF YOU'VE GOT A PROBLEM WITH ME, DON'T GIVE ME THAT FAKE SMILE!
JUST SAY IT!


AND I'LL FIGHT YOU ANY-TIME!!


...


?!


BUT I DON'T HATE YOU, NARUTO ...


AS A MATTER OF FACT, I DON'T FEEL ANYTHING TOWARD YOU AT ALL, GOOD OR BAD.


...

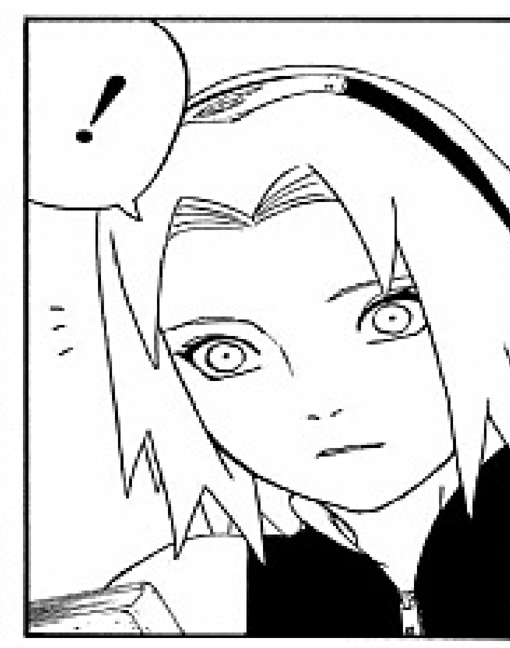


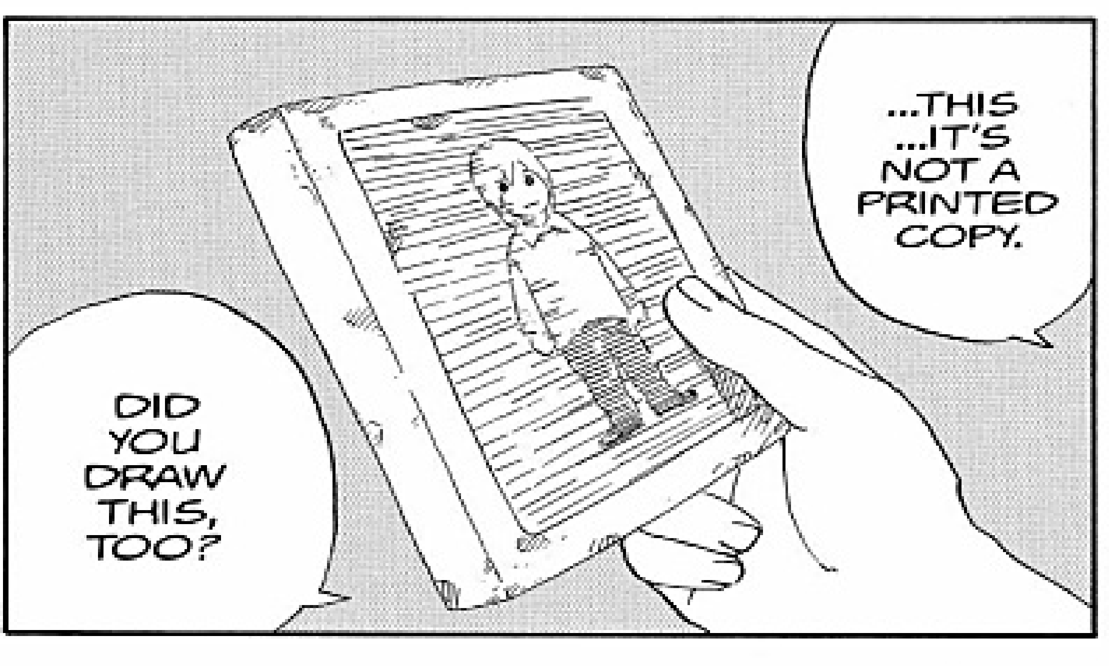

...


READ THIS WAY

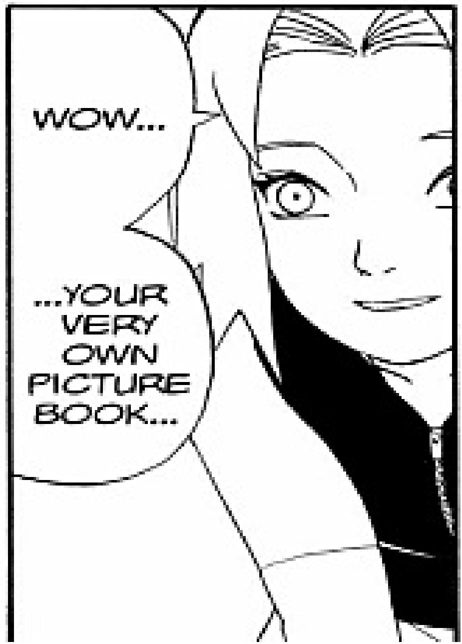

PLEASE. JUST GO ON AHEAD.
I'LL CATCH UP AS SOON AS I'VE PACKED.
!
FSH


...
I'LL HELP.


!


...THIS ...IT'S NOT A PRINTED COPY.
DID YOU DRAW THIS, TOO?


SHF
YEAH ...

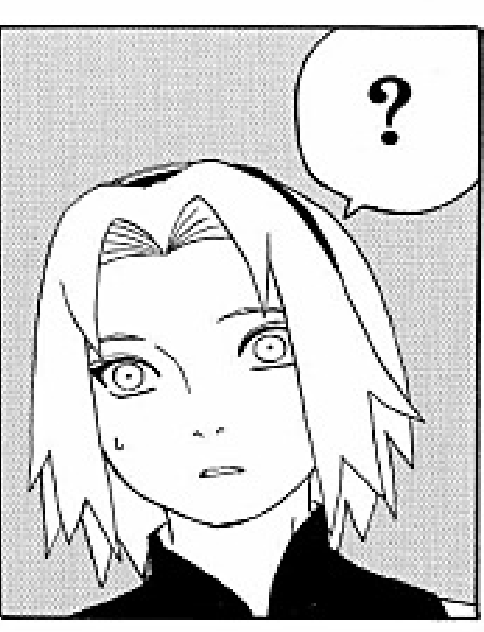

WOW...
...YOUR VERY OWN PICTURE BOOK...

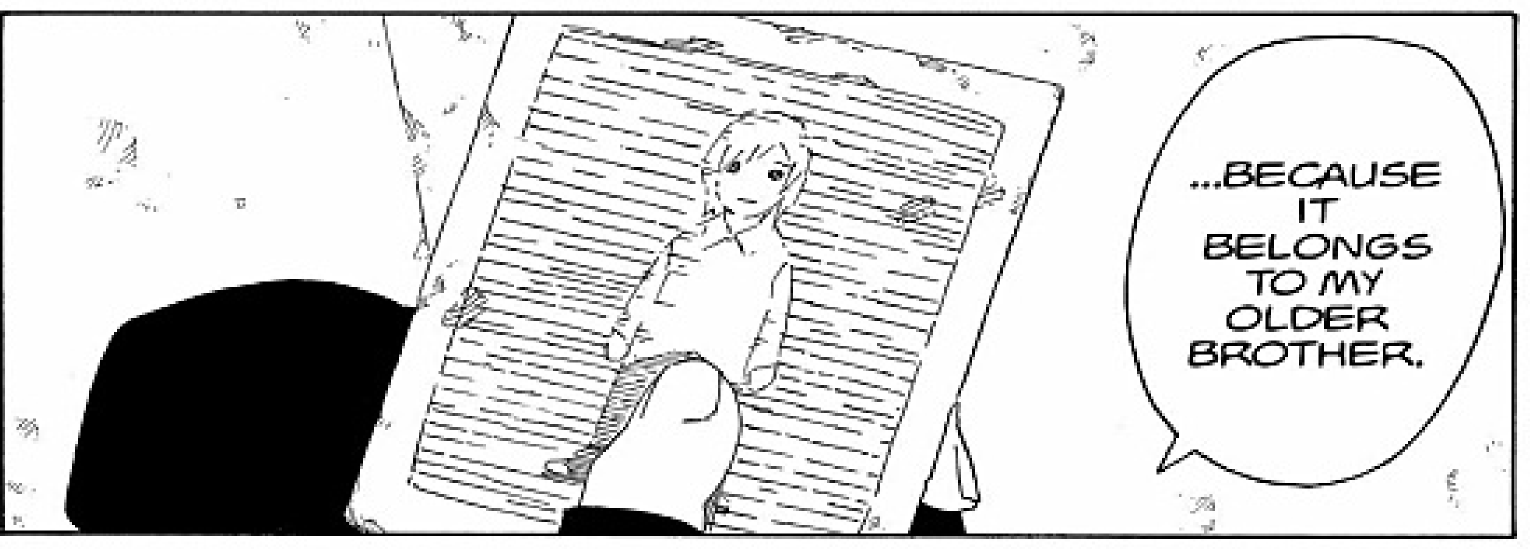

HUMPH!


HEY...
...WHILE WE'RE ON THE ROAD, IS IT OKAY IF I FLIP THROUGH THIS?
!


SORRY, BUT NO.
...IT'S NOT FINISHED YET.

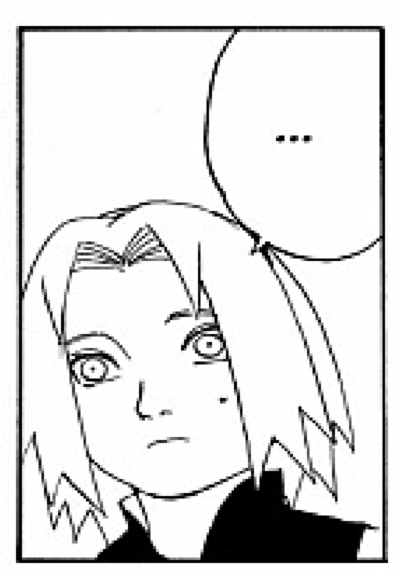

PLUS, I DON'T REALLY SHOW IT TO OTHERS...


?


...BECAUSE IT BELONGS TO MY OLDER BROTHER.

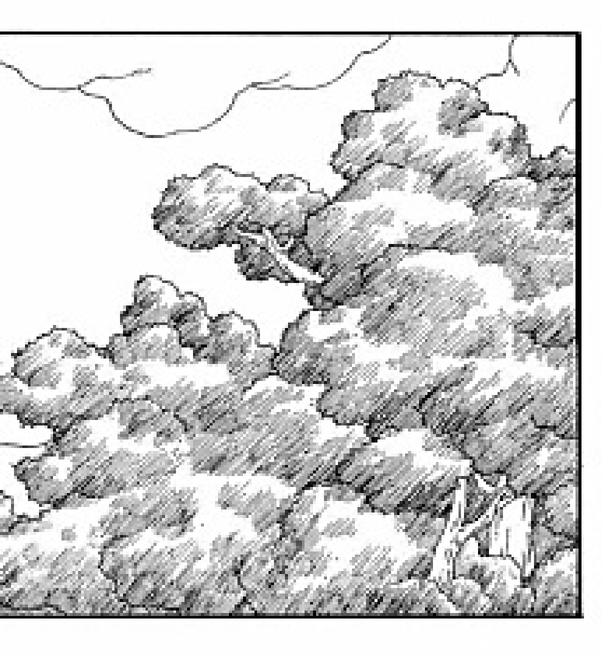

READ
THIS
WAY




...


...?

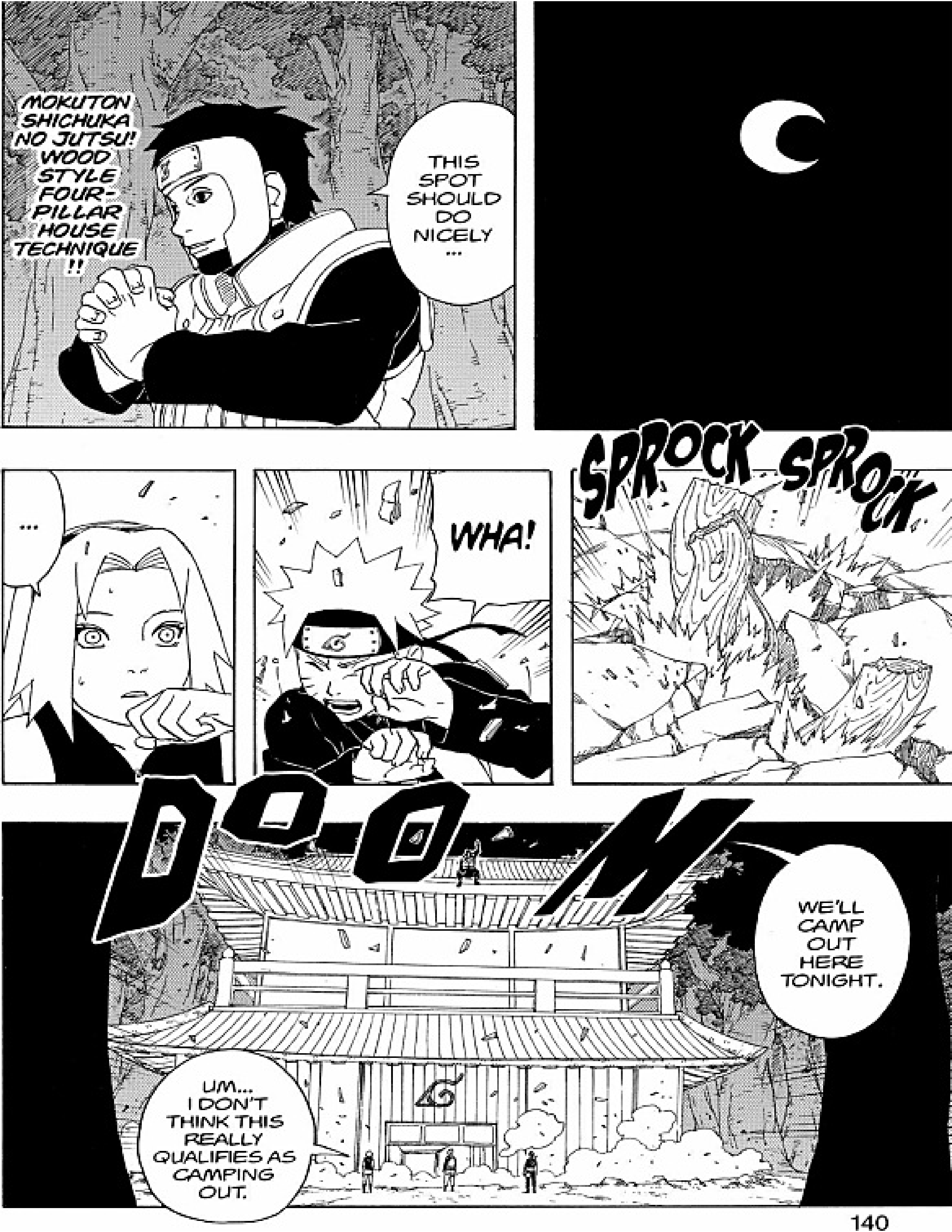




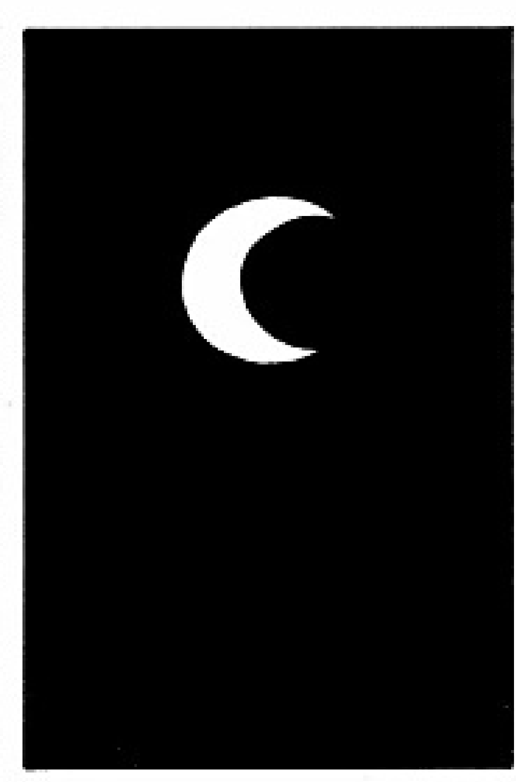



...

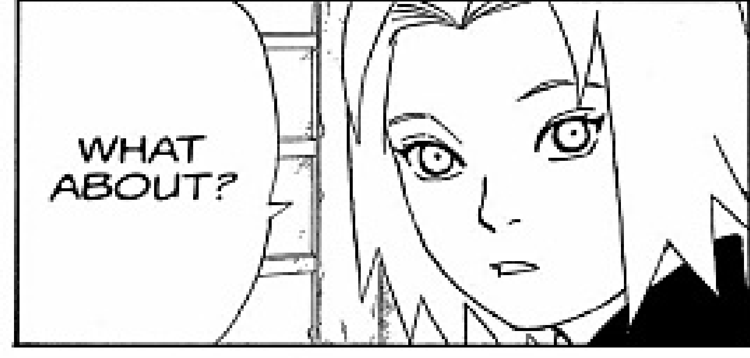



THIS SPOT SHOULD DO NICELY ...
MOKUTON SHICHUKA NO JUTSU! WOOD STYLE FOUR-PILLAR HOUSE TECHNIQUE !!
SPROCK SPROCK
WHA!
...
DO-O-M
WE'LL CAMP OUT HERE TONIGHT.
UM... I DON'T THINK THIS REALLY QUALIFIES AS CAMPING OUT.


READ THIS WAY




ALL RIGHT, GATHER AROUND, EVERY-ONE.
!
CLATTER
OH, AND SAKURA...
...THERE ARE A FEW THINGS I ESPECIALLY NEED TO ASK YOU.


WHAT ABOUT?


...WITH REGARD TO THE AKATSUKI MEMBER SASORI.


I RECEIVED HIS FILE FROM SUNA-GAKURE, BUT...
...IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF YOU COULD FILL IN ANY BLANKS...
...ABOUT HIS PERSONALITY, SPEECH PATTERNS, MANNERISMS, OR QUIRKS...


AFTER ALL, YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE HERE...
...WHO'S GONE TOE-TO-TOE WITH HIM.

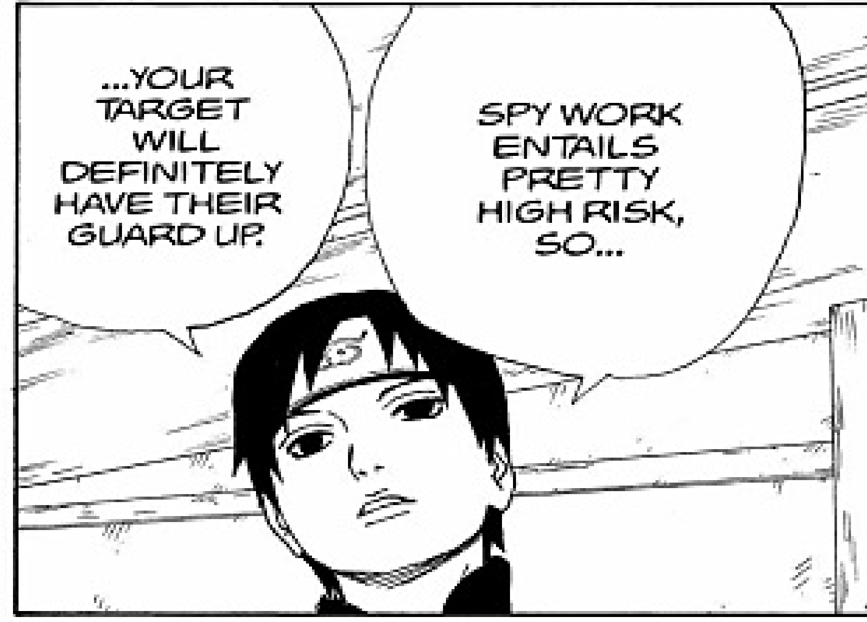
WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW ALL THAT FOR?

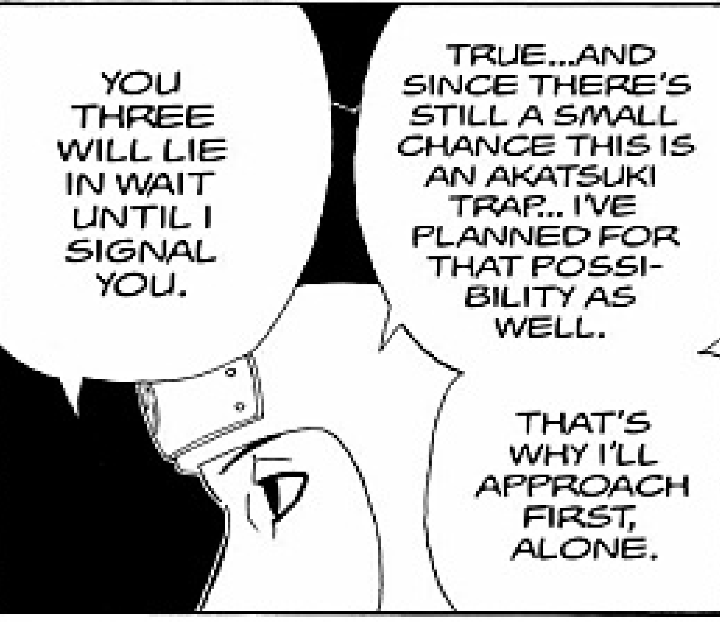
THE AKATSUKI SPY WHO HAS INFILTRATED OROCHI-MARU'S RANKS...

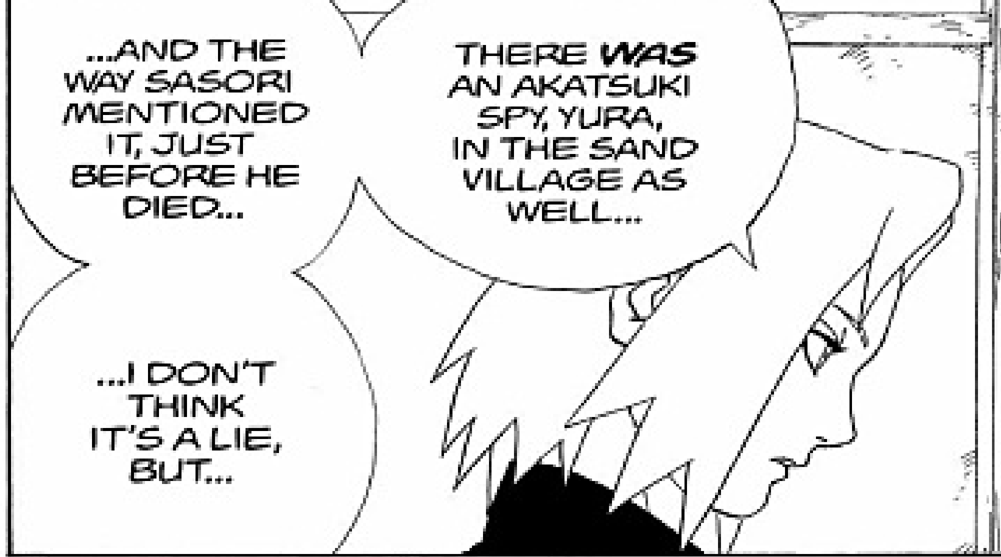
...EXPECTS TO RENDEZVOUS WITH SASORI AT TENCHI BRIDGE.

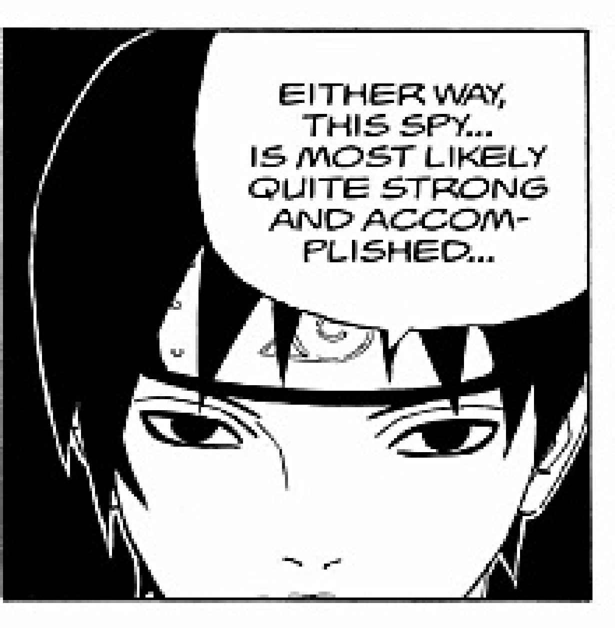
THEY MIGHT CATCH ME RIGHT AWAY...

...BUT I'M GOING TO TRY TO APPROACH THEM DISGUISED AS SASORI.









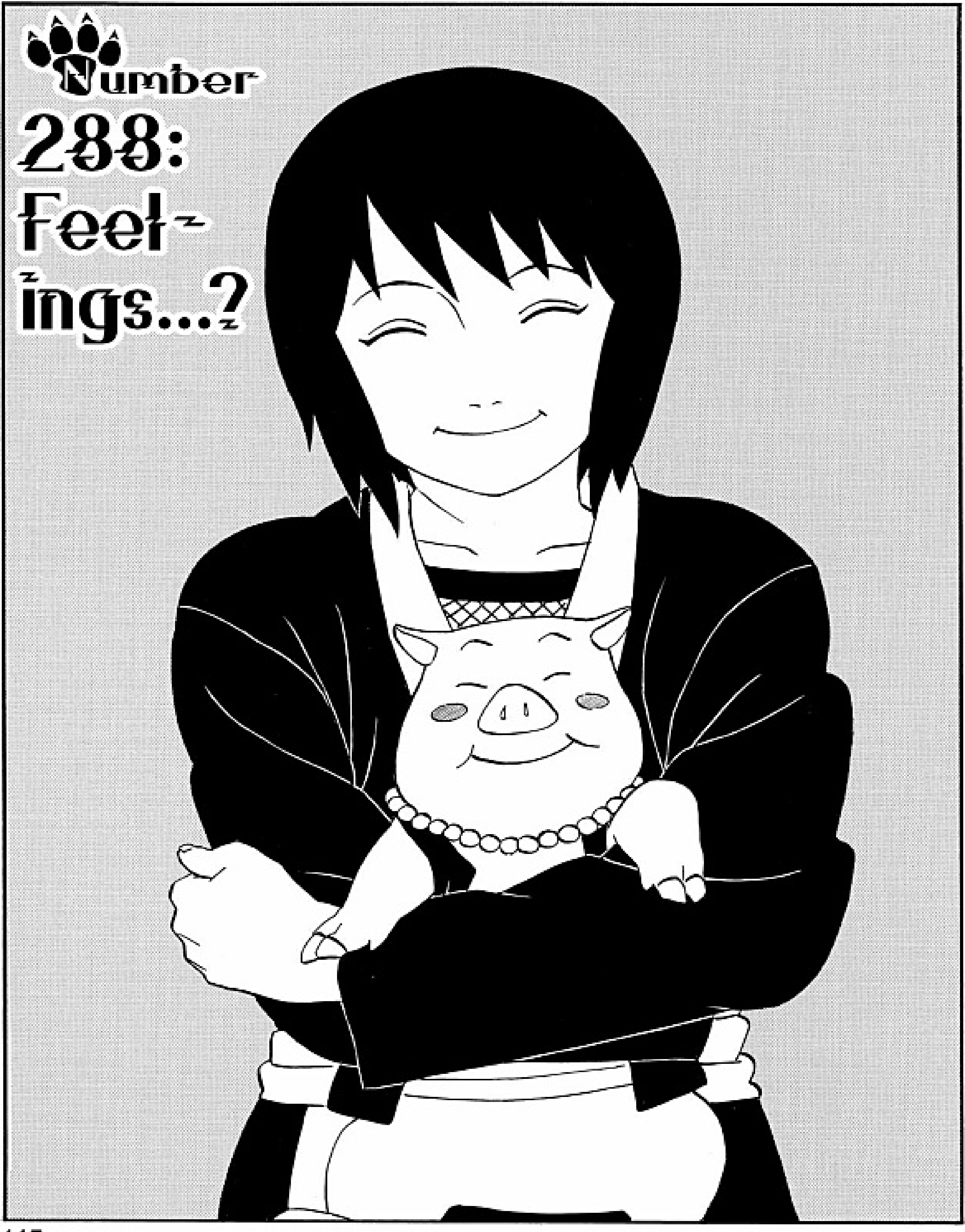
YEAH, WELL... SO ARE WE...

FWHOO

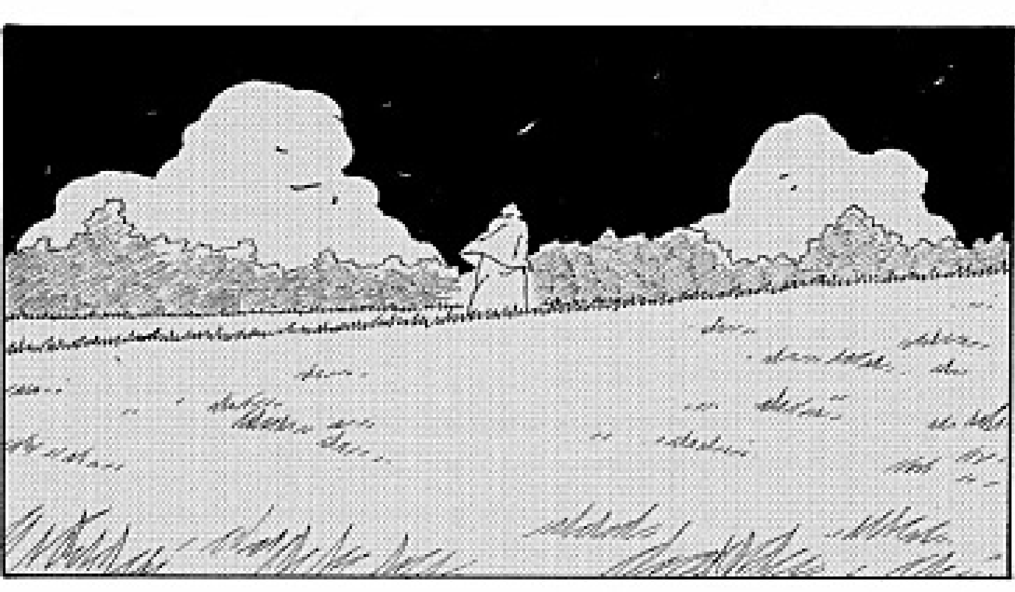
GUST

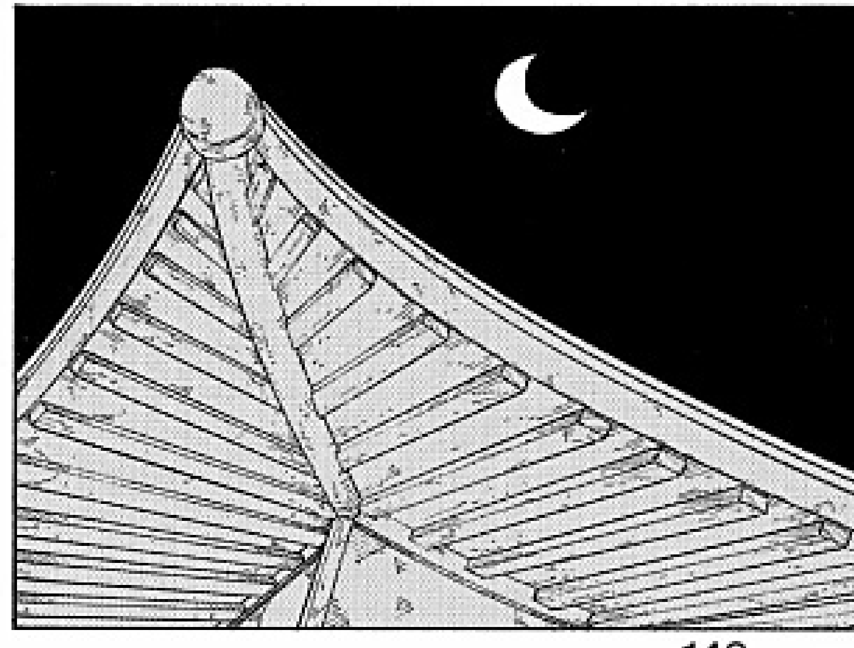


周年
祝六周年
CONGRATULATIONS ON THE 6TH ANNIVERSARY! PLEASE KEEP WORKING HARD WHILE WATCHING YOUR HEALTH!!
05.11.8
村上正樹
MURAKAMI MASAKI


Number
288:
Feel-
ings...?


CRUNCH

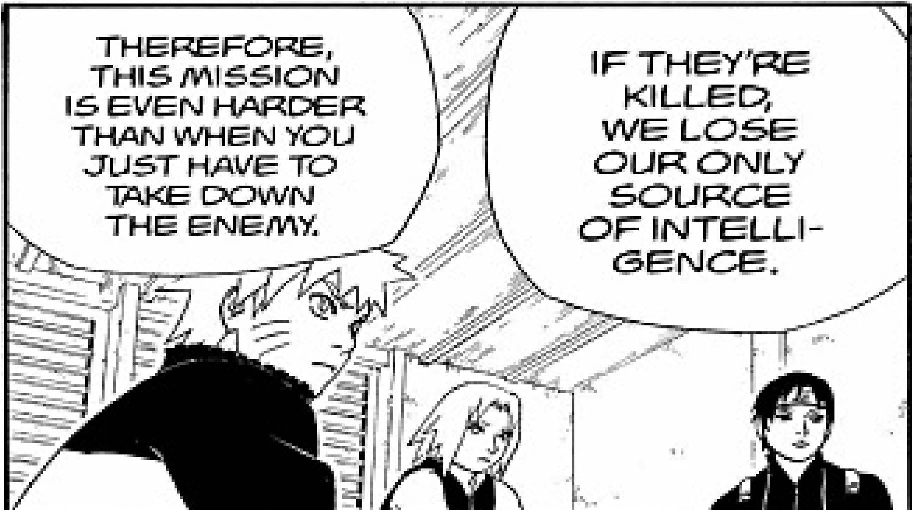




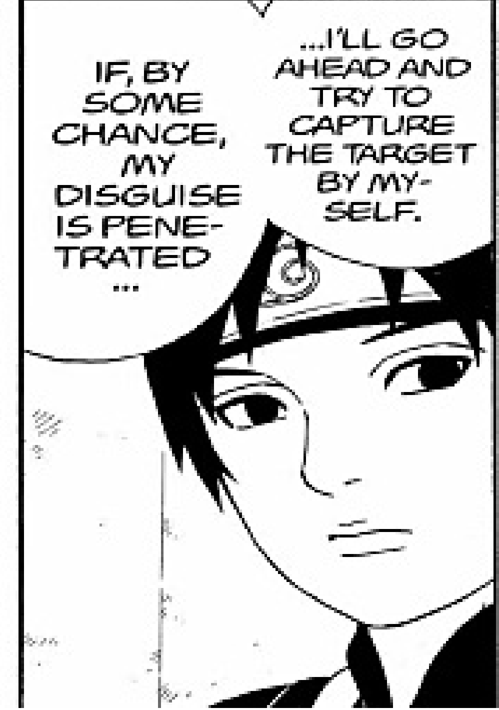

THE DEVIL IS IN THE DETAILS, TEAM...
...SO HERE'S THE MISSION FROM A TO Z...

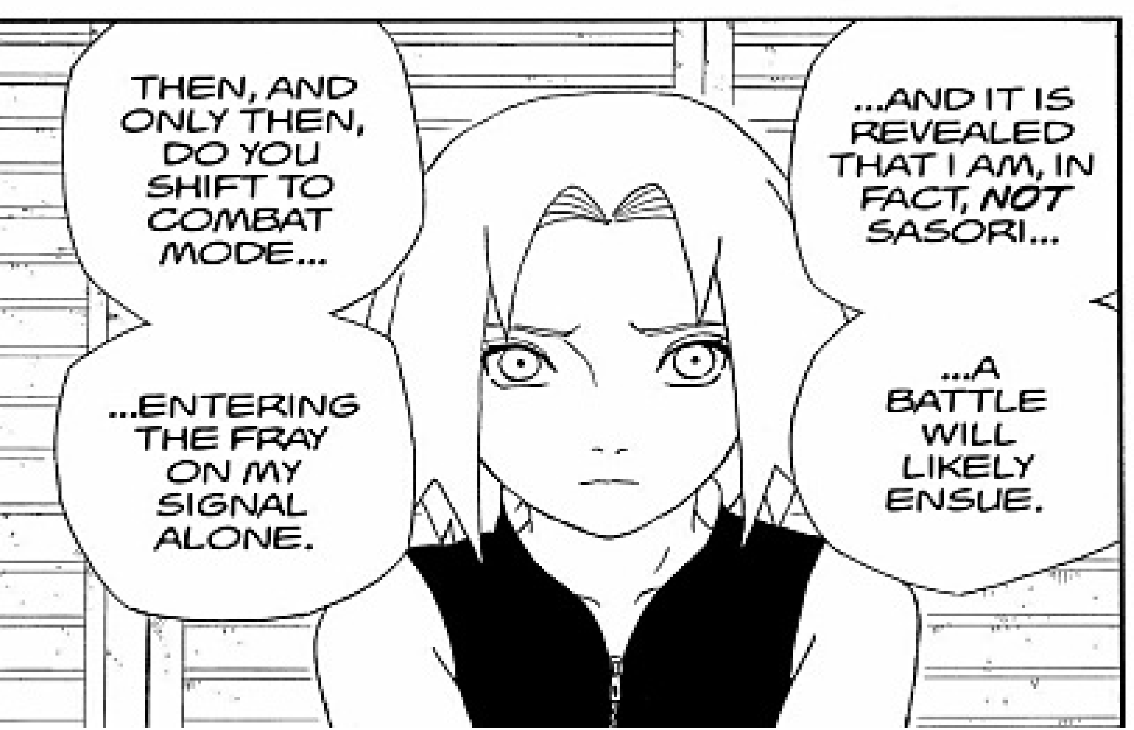

READ THIS WAY


OUR ONE AND ONLY GOAL IS A ***LIVE CAPTURE***...
...THE TARGET MUST ***NOT*** BE KILLED OR INJURED, NO MATTER WHAT.
EVEN IF IT MEANS HAVING TO FIGHT THEM.


IF THEY'RE KILLED, WE LOSE OUR ONLY SOURCE OF INTELLI-GENCE.
THEREFORE, THIS MISSION IS EVEN HARDER THAN WHEN YOU JUST HAVE TO TAKE DOWN THE ENEMY.


AND BECAUSE IT'S SUCH A DELICATE SITUATION...
...THIS MUST GO OFF WITHOUT A HITCH.
SO... WHILE YOU THREE ACT AS BACKUP...

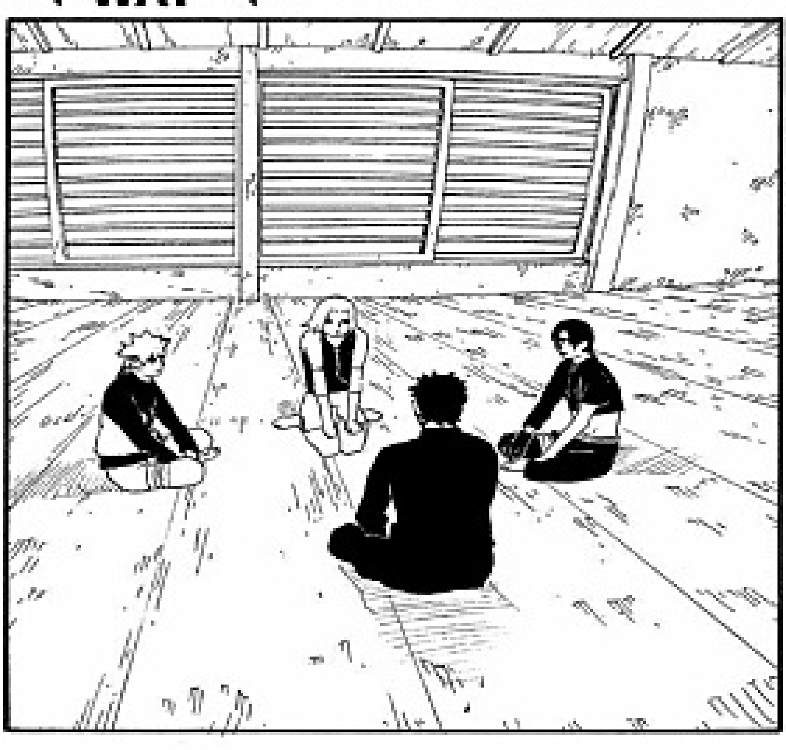

IF, BY SOME CHANCE, MY DISGUISE IS PENE-TRATED...
...I'LL GO AHEAD AND TRY TO CAPTURE THE TARGET BY MY-SELF.


...AND IT IS REVEALED THAT I AM, IN FACT, ***NOT*** SASORI...
...A BATTLE WILL LIKELY ENSUE.
THEN, AND ONLY THEN, DO YOU SHIFT TO COMBAT MODE...
...ENTERING THE FRAY ON MY SIGNAL ALONE.


WE WILL FIGHT IN PAIRS AT ALL TIMES.
EVERY WARRIOR'S ACTION WILL BE COVERED BY THEIR PARTNER.
THE WATCH-WORD, PEOPLE, IS *TEAM-WORK.*
SO... HERE ARE THE PAIRINGS.
SQUAD ONE WILL BE... NARUTO AND SAI.
SAKURA, YOU'RE WITH ME...


READ
THIS
WAY

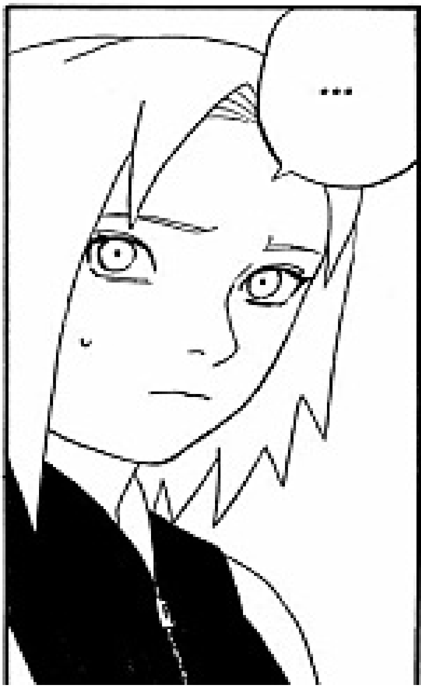

BUT...
YOU'RE THE TEAM'S ONE AND ONLY MEDIC NINJA.
WE CAN'T AFFORD TO HAVE YOU INJURED, SO I WILL COVER YOU.



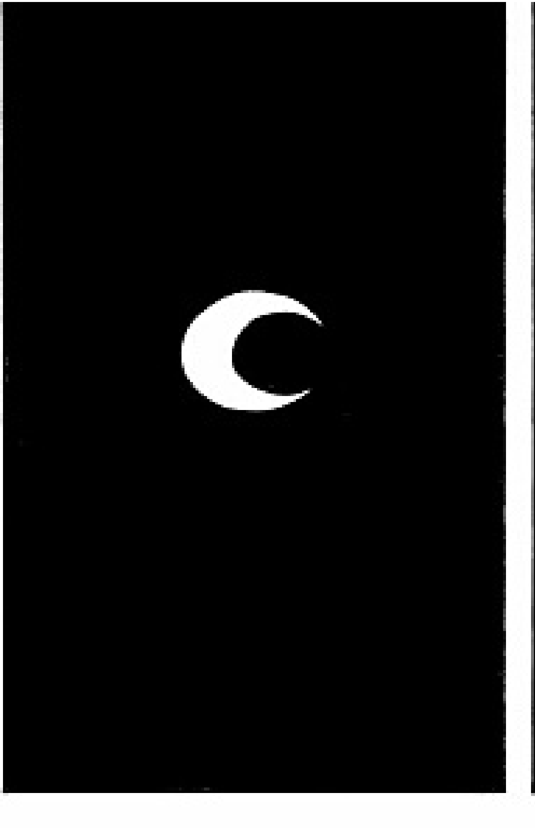

...


!


PART-
NER.

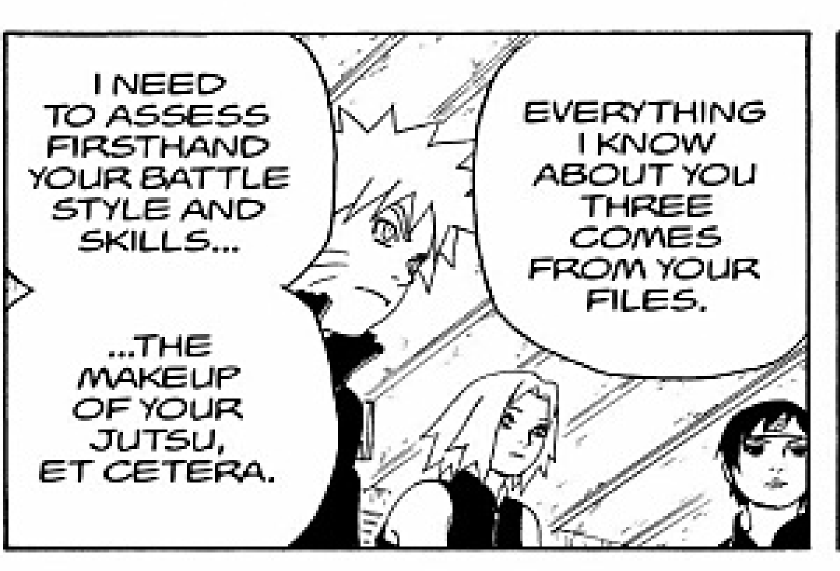

...


OH, C'MON, COM-
MANDER!
TEAM ME UP WITH ANYONE... JUST NOT HIM!

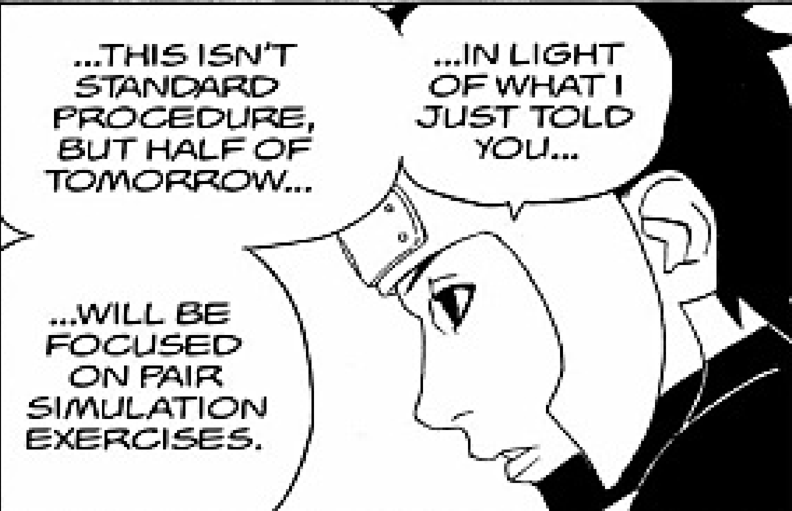




!
LOO—M
AND YET YOU CONTINUE TO COM-PLAIN...



EVERYTHING I KNOW ABOUT YOU THREE COMES FROM YOUR FILES.
I NEED TO ASSESS FIRSTHAND YOUR BATTLE STYLE AND SKILLS...
...THE MAKEUP OF YOUR JUTSU, ET CETERA.

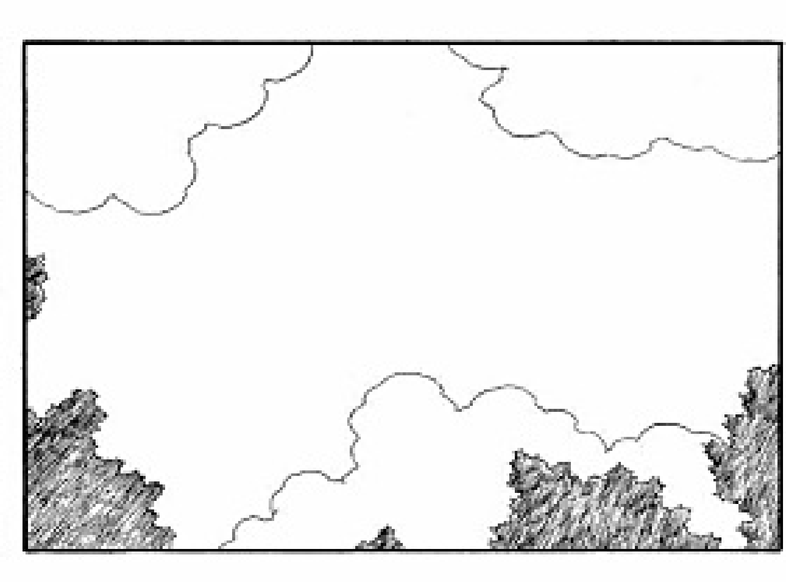


...IN LIGHT OF WHAT I JUST TOLD YOU...
...THIS ISN'T STANDARD PROCEDURE, BUT HALF OF TOMORROW...
...WILL BE FOCUSED ON PAIR SIMULATION EXERCISES.



CLEARLY, IT'S THE ONLY WAY I'M EVER GOING TO FORGE THIS TEAM...
...INTO THE COHESIVE FIGHTING UNIT IT NEEDS TO BE.
KAKASHI-SENSEI MAY HAVE FAVORED A MORE LAX APPROACH...
...BUT I AM NOT HE.



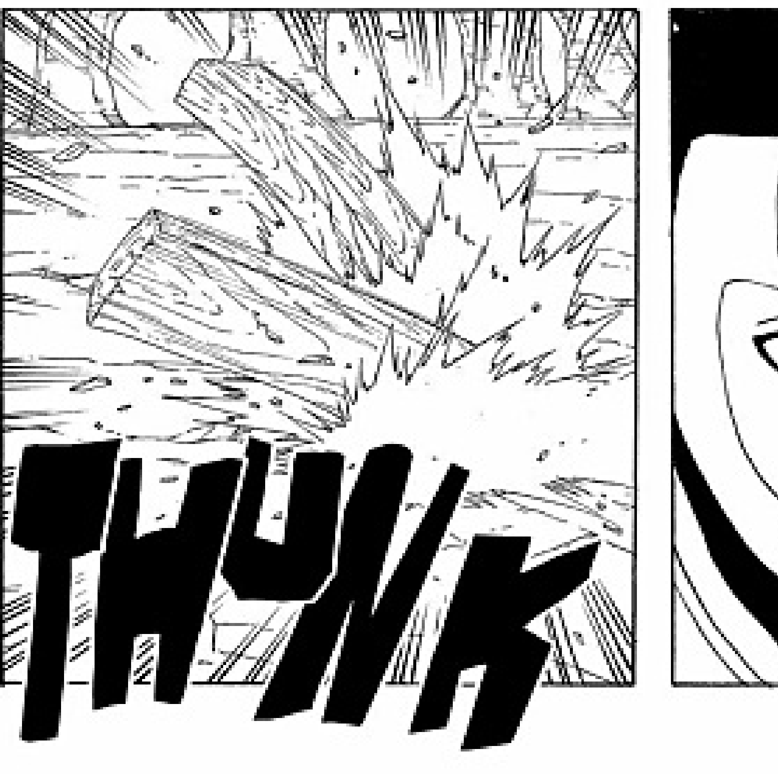


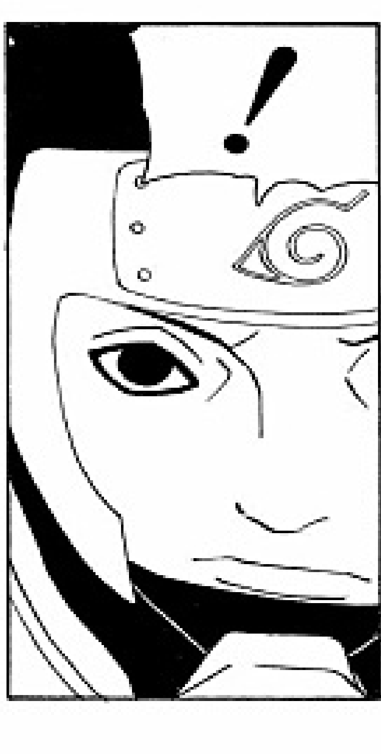


WHUP WHUP WHUP

IS THAT ALL YOU'VE GOT?!

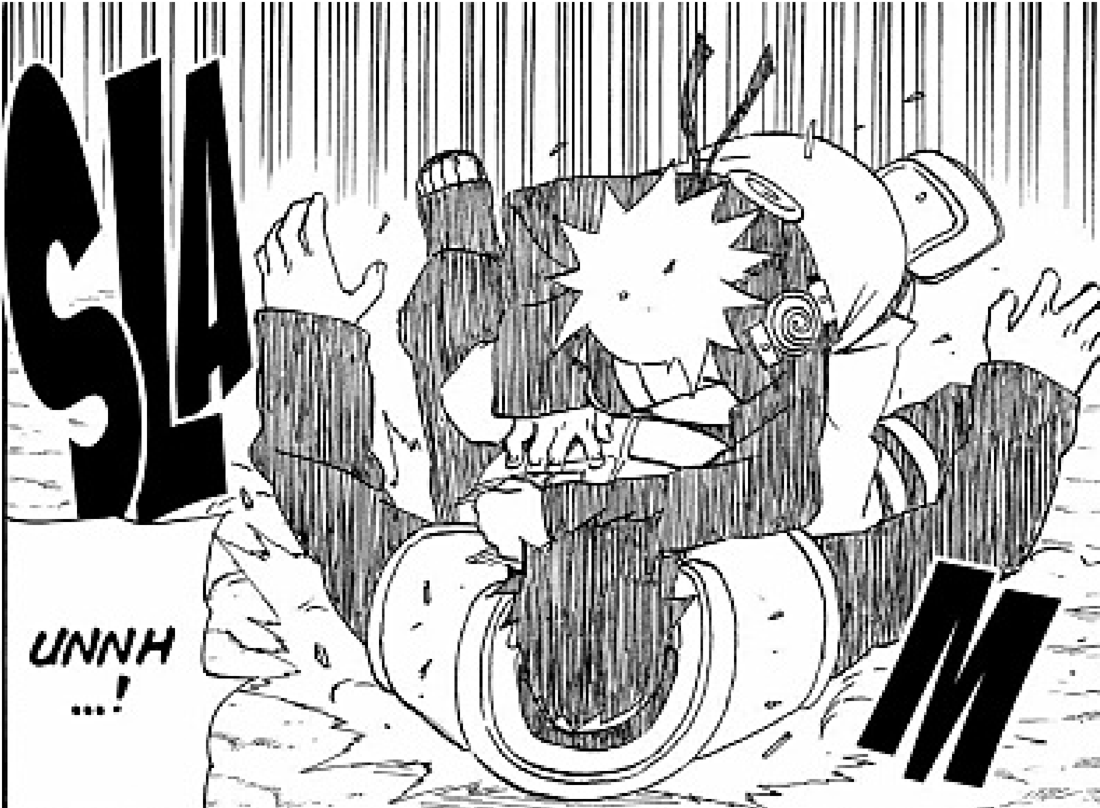
DUCK


THUNK


!




VOOSH
LEAP
BOOF
TAP
YAAH!!


SLAM
UNNH...!


THE ART OF CARTOON BEAST MIMICRY!!

TWITCH

HISSSSS
SLITHER
GOTCHA! AND I'M NOT LETTING GO!!





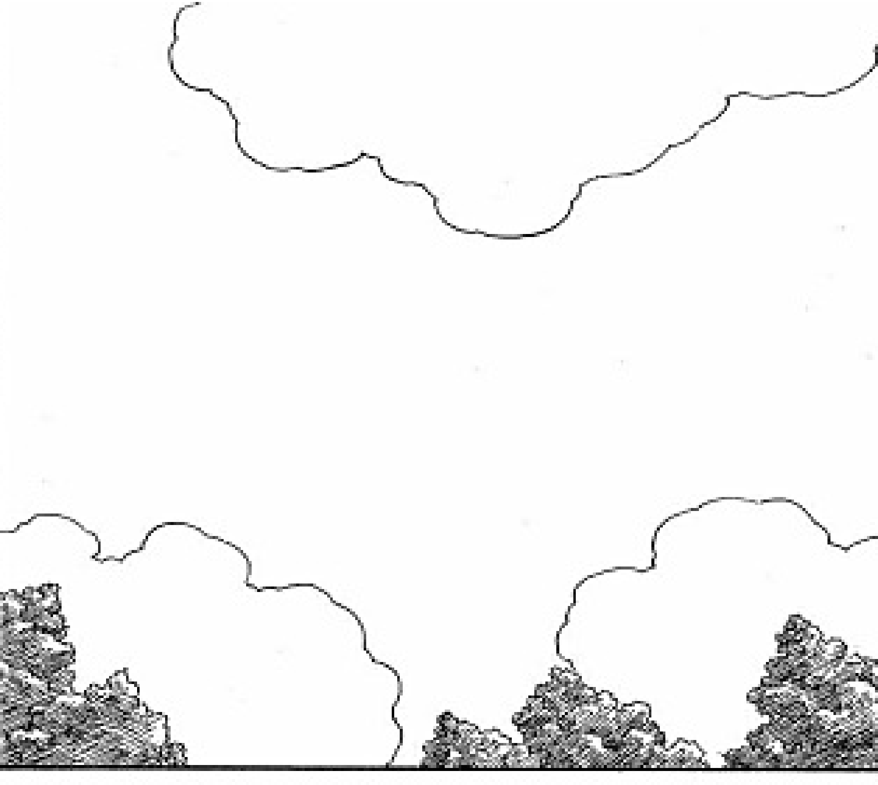


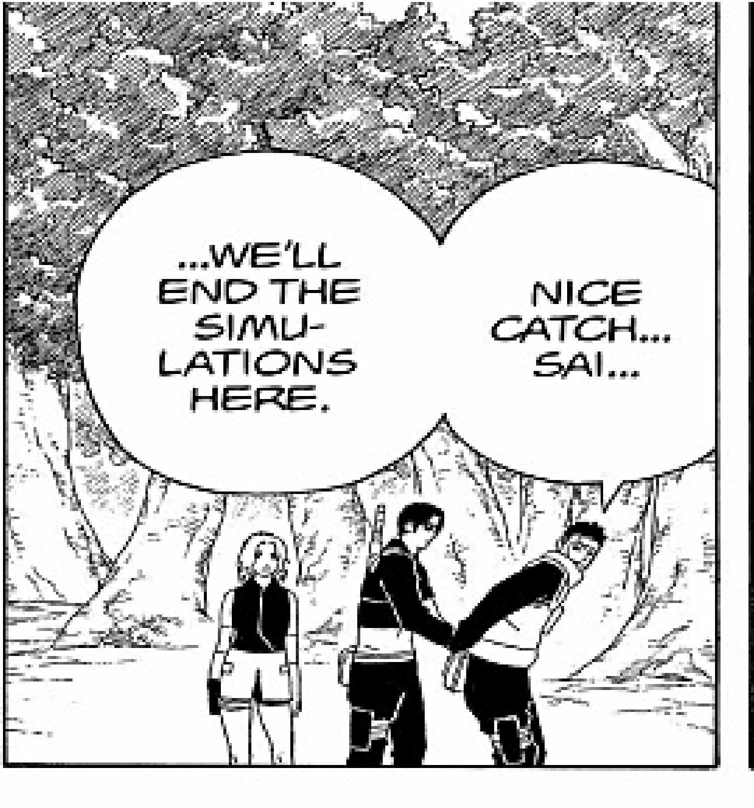
(HEADGEAR: LOSER!)





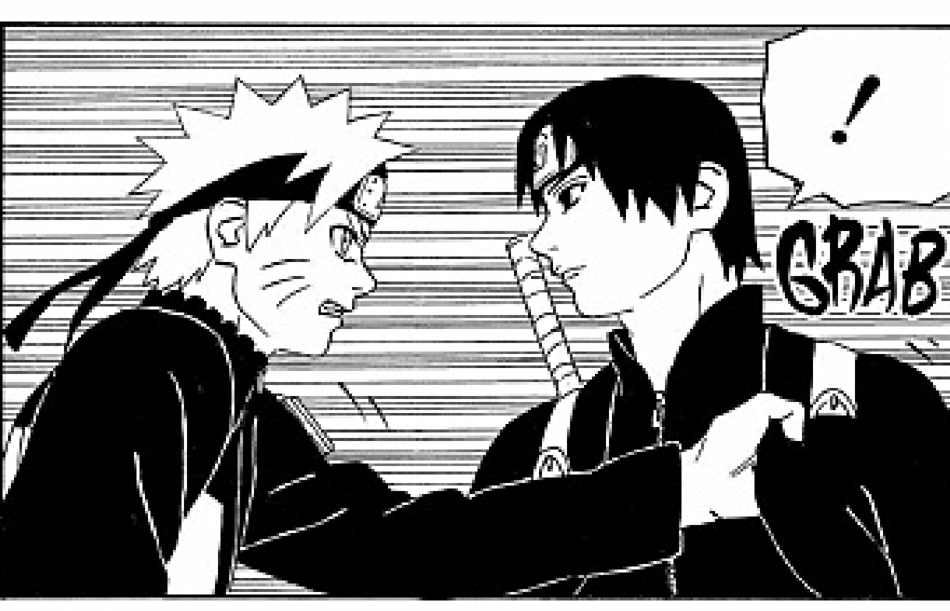






NICE CATCH... SAI...
...WE'LL END THE SIMU-LATIONS HERE.

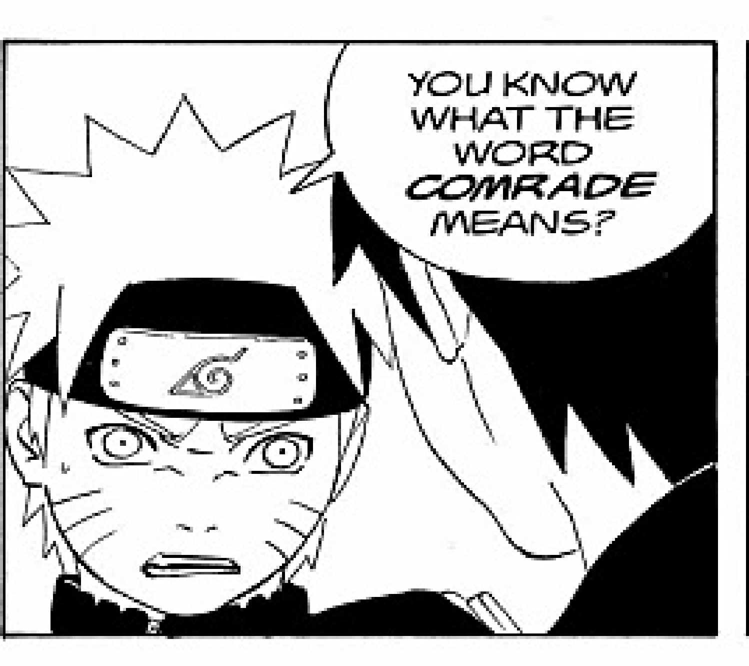




!
GRAB

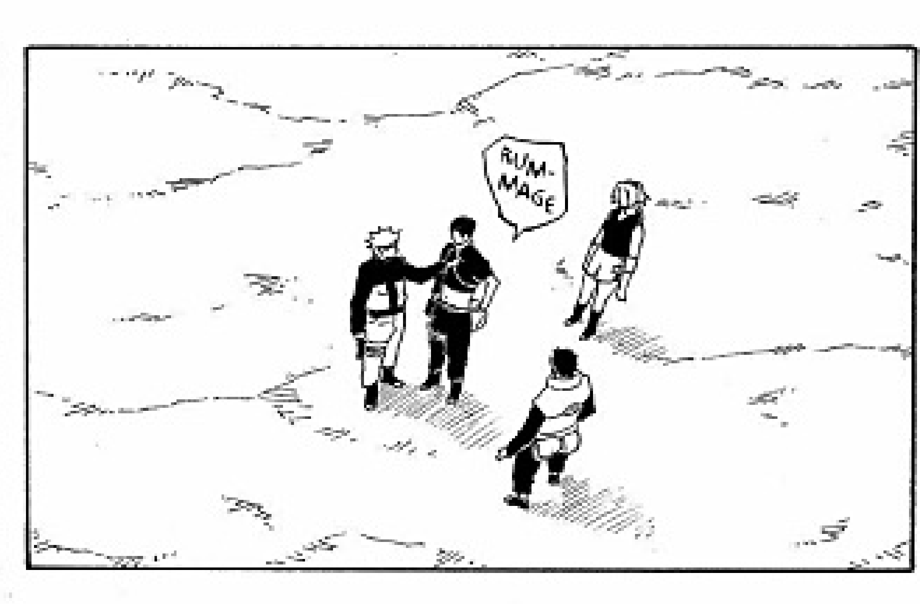


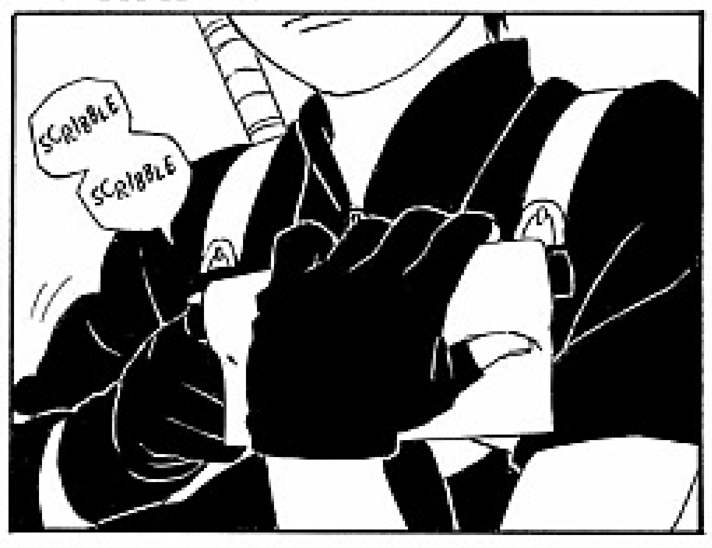
PROB-LEM?

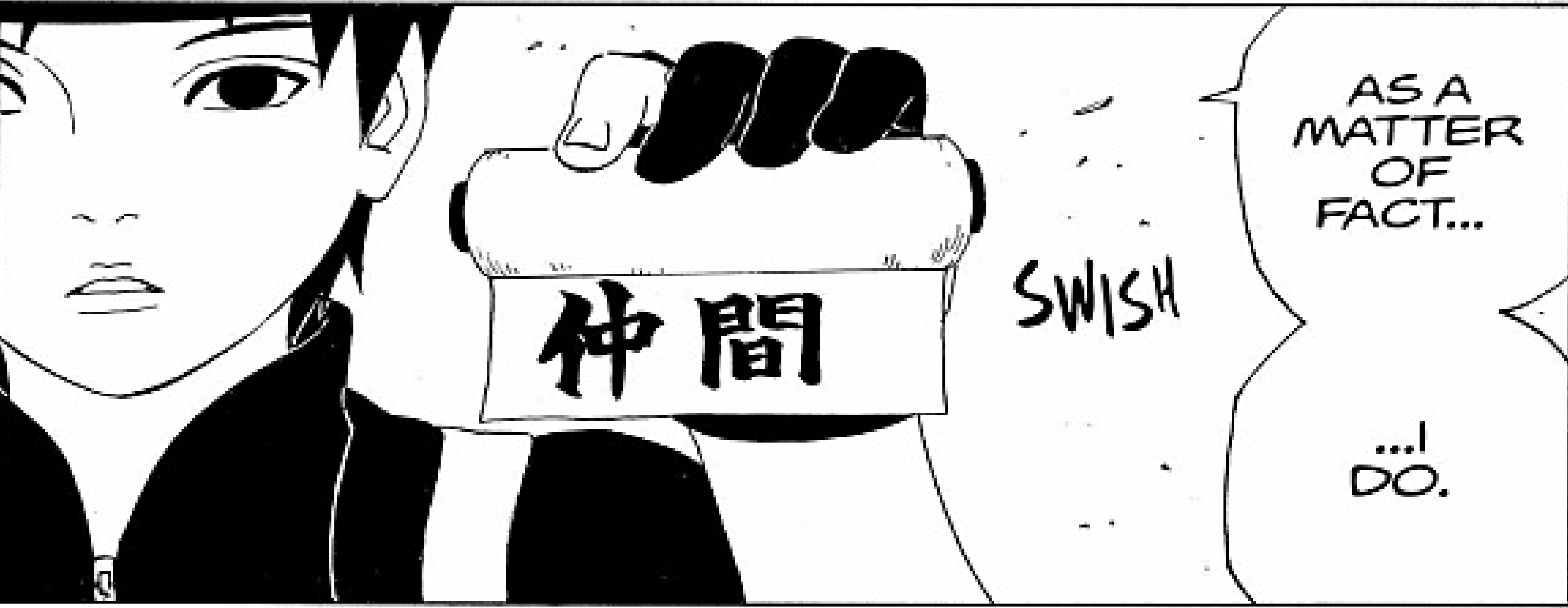


YOU KNOW WHAT THE WORD *COMRADE* MEANS?









(ROLL: COMRADE)







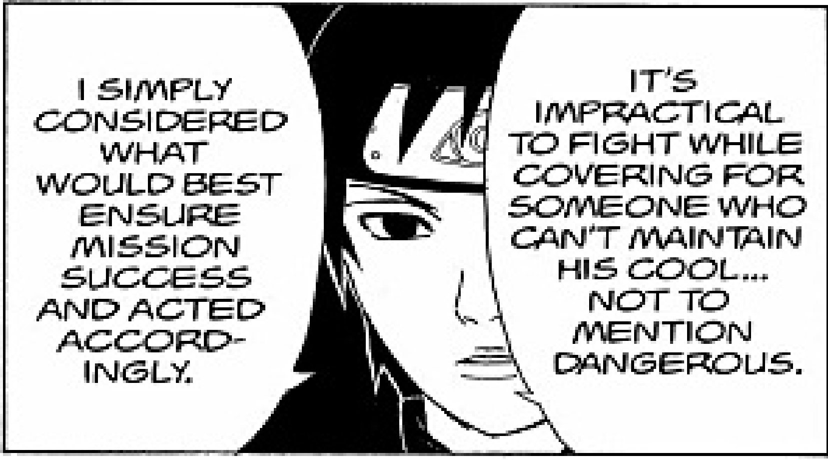
IS THAT ALL YOU'VE GOT?!

IF YOU HADN'T FALLEN FOR THE COMMANDER'S OBVIOUS BAIT...

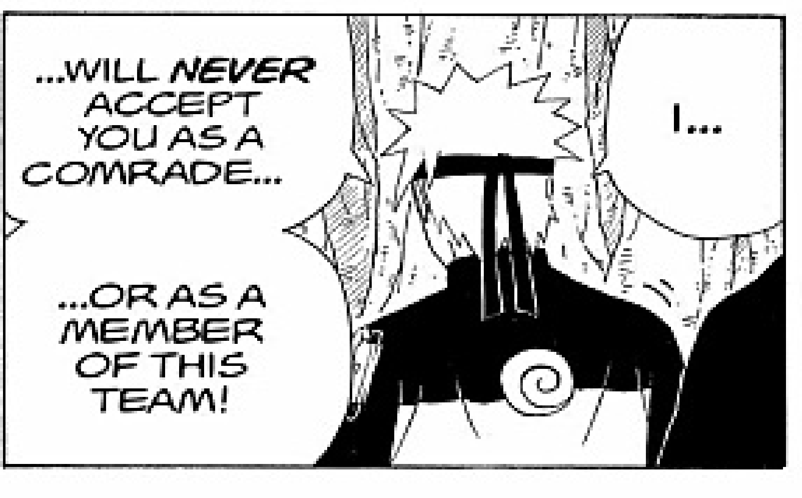
...HE WOULDN'T HAVE KNOWN THAT I WAS HIDING ELSEWHERE.

EVEN IF YOU HAD USED YOUR OWN JUTSU AND TRANSFORMED INTO ME, HE STILL WOULD HAVE KNOWN IT WAS ONLY A SHADOW DOPPELGANGER.










READ THIS WAY


THIS IS SO NOT GOING TO WORK...
HUF


...I WONDER WHAT SASUKE WOULD HAVE DONE IN THIS SCENARIO?
WOULD **HE** HAVE FOUGHT WHILE COVERING YOU?
SOME-HOW I DOUBT IT.




...
OH, SAI... WHY DO YOU INSIST ON PUSHING NARUTO?!


HE BETRAYED OUR VILLAGE AND TRIED TO **KILL** YOU.
AND YOU STILL CONSIDER HIM A COMRADE?


SWOSH


EVEN TEAM UP WITH YOU.


YES... AND I WOULD STILL DO ANY-THING TO SAVE HIM.


WHIRL

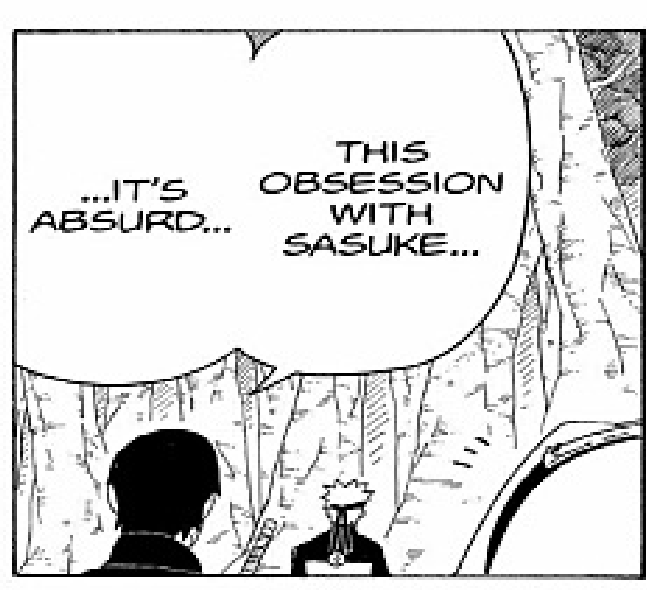



...


...


...
NARUTO...!

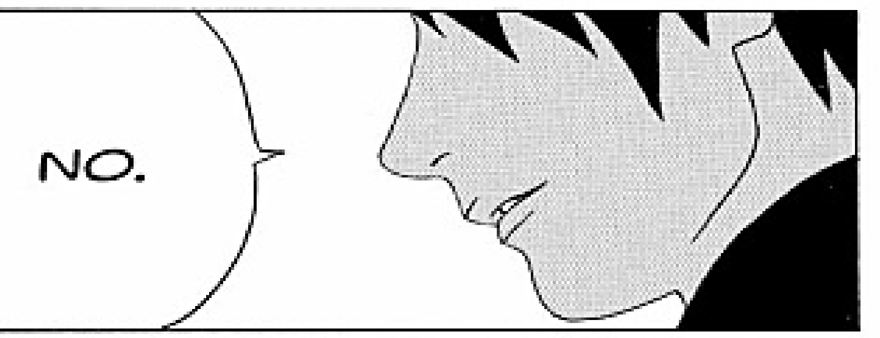

READ THIS WAY


THIS OBSESSION WITH SASUKE...
...IT'S ABSURD...


...


NARUTO...
...THINKS OF SASUKE AS A BROTHER.


YOU HAVE AN OLDER BROTHER...
...SO YOU MUST KNOW WHAT THAT'S LIKE.

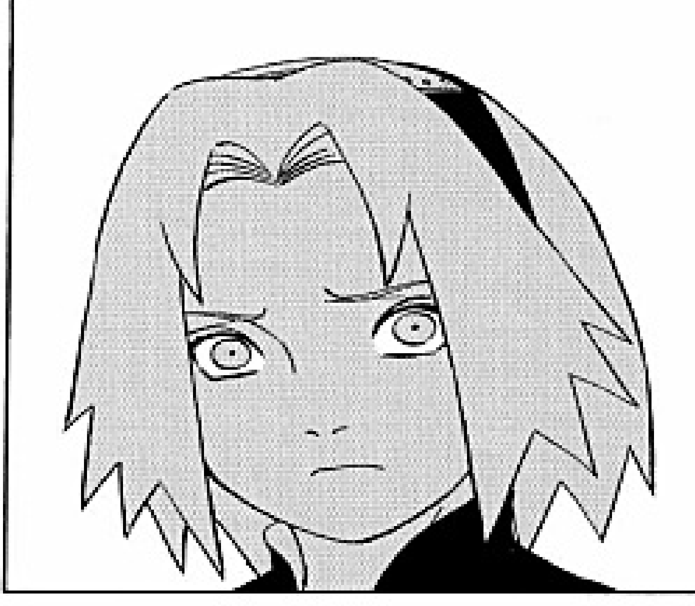

NO.


...


REMEMBER OUR CONVER-SATION ABOUT THE PICTURE TITLES?
...I DON'T *HAVE* FEELINGS.

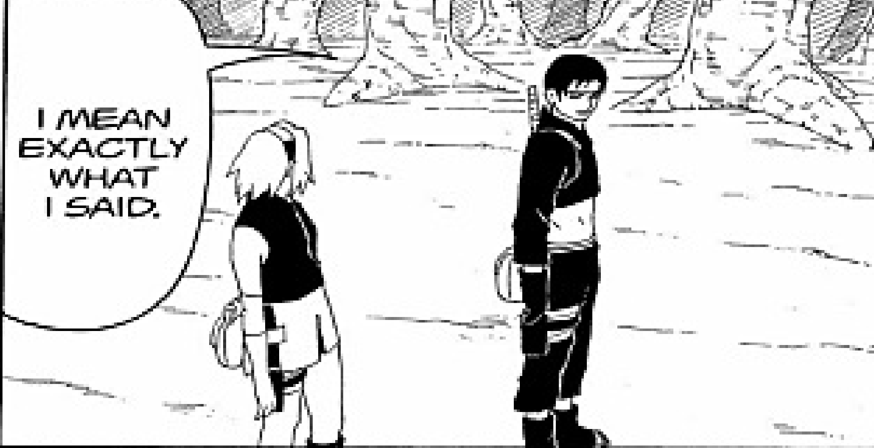

NARUTO

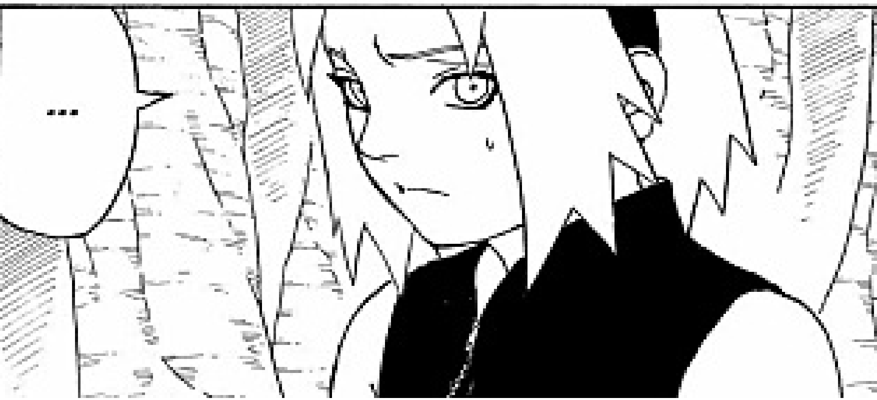

Number 289:
The Akatsuki Spy!!

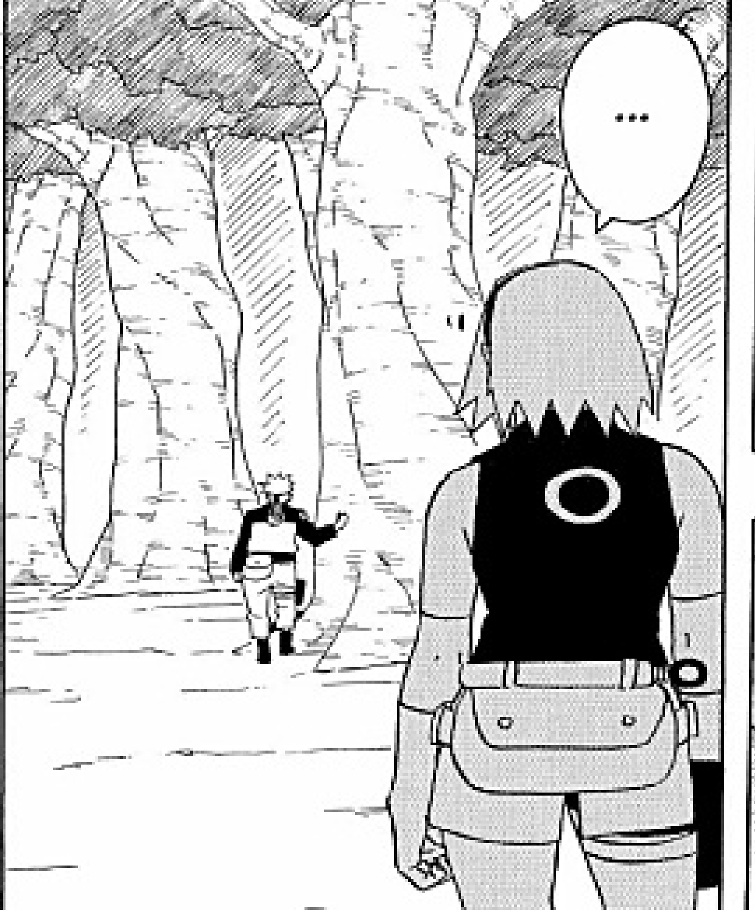


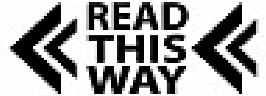



WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU DON'T *HAVE* FEEL-INGS?
HE'S YOUR *BROTHER*. SURELY YOU MUST FEEL *SOMETHING* ...

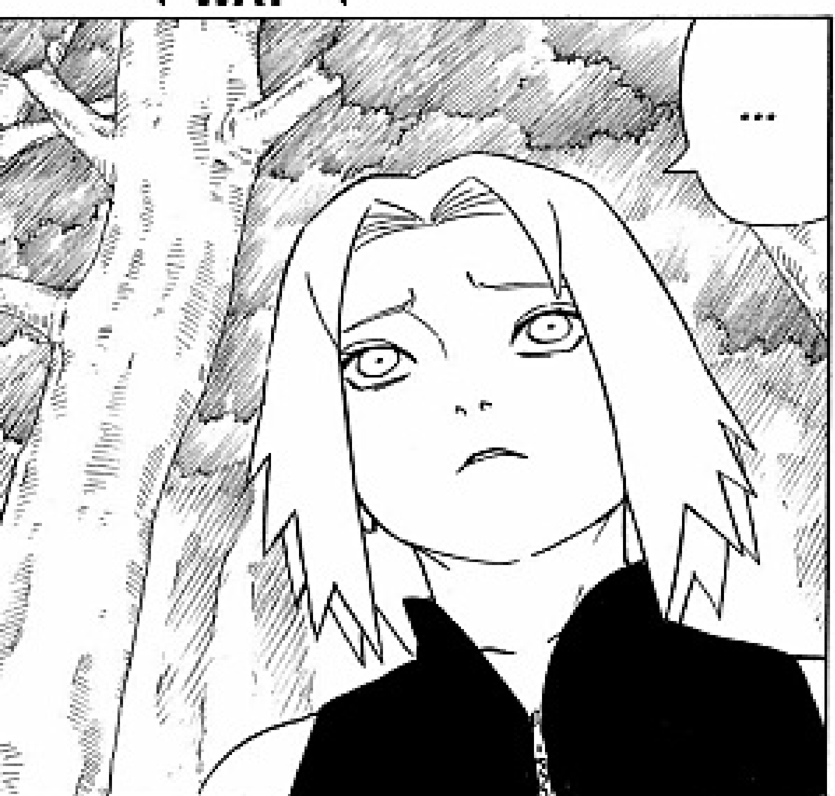

I MEAN EXACTLY WHAT I SAID.

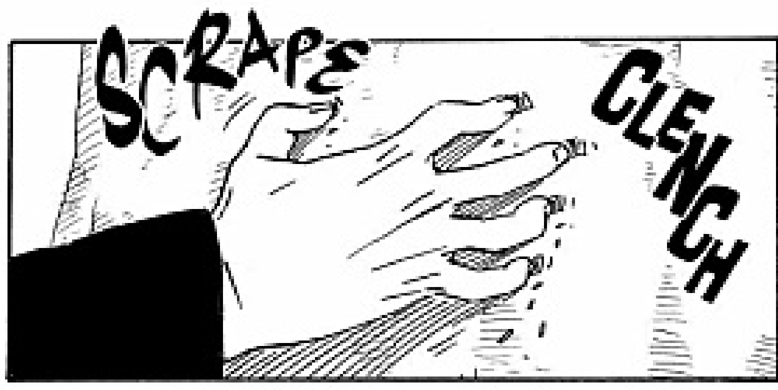

...


...

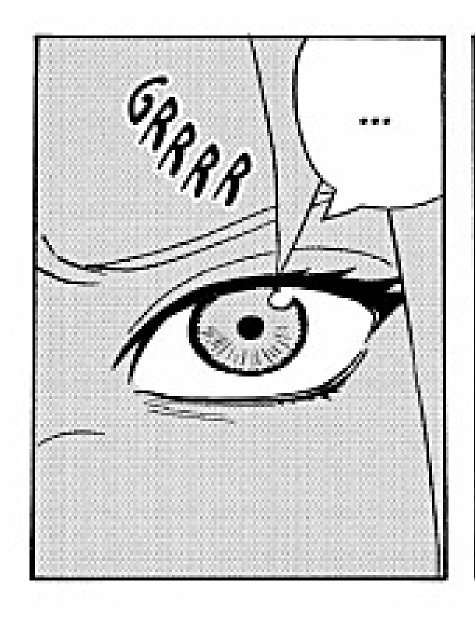

READ
THIS
WAY




...

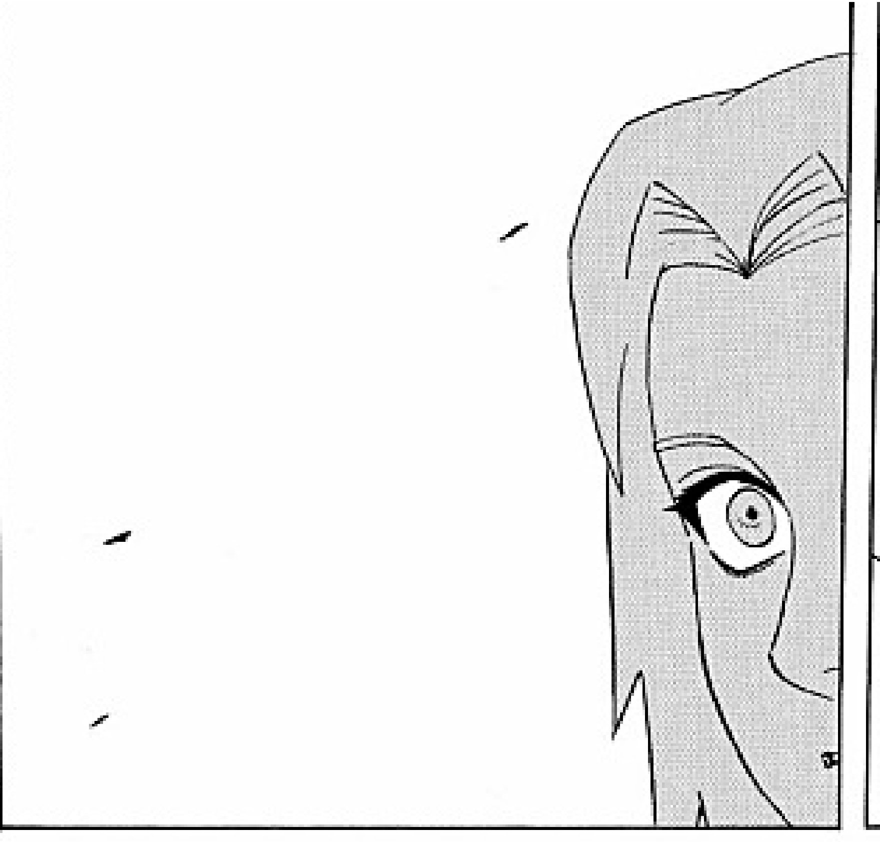

CLENCH
SCRAPE



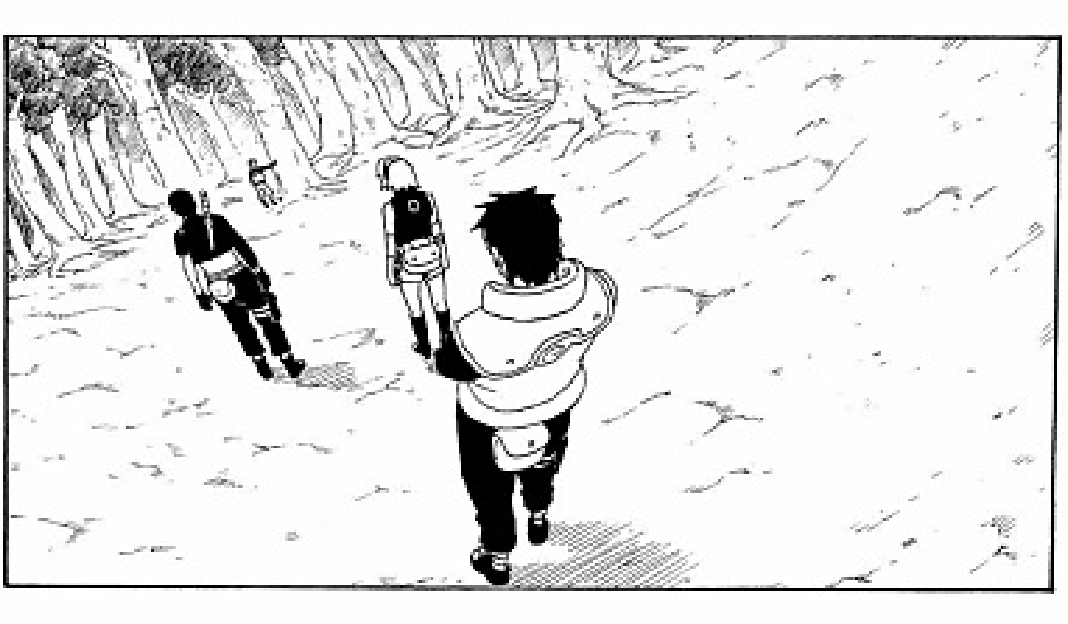

...
GRRRR


BUT EVEN SO...
YOU HAVE A BROTHER, SO...
...YOU MUST BE ABLE TO IMAGINE, EVEN A LITTLE, WHAT IT WOULD FEEL LIKE TO LOSE HIM.

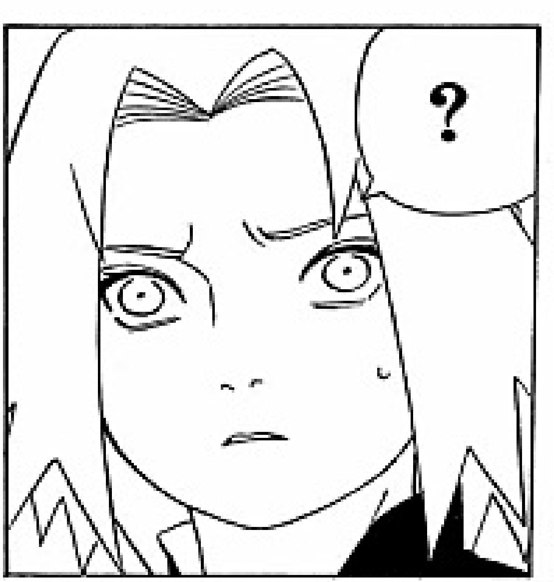

HMM?
AH, WELL... YOU SEE...

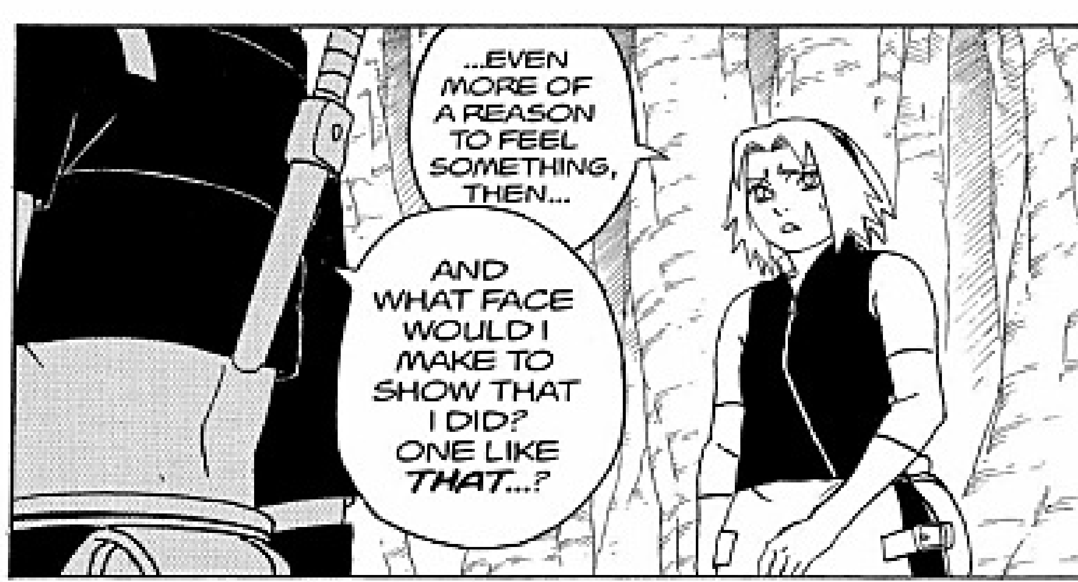



MY BROTHER IS *DEAD.*

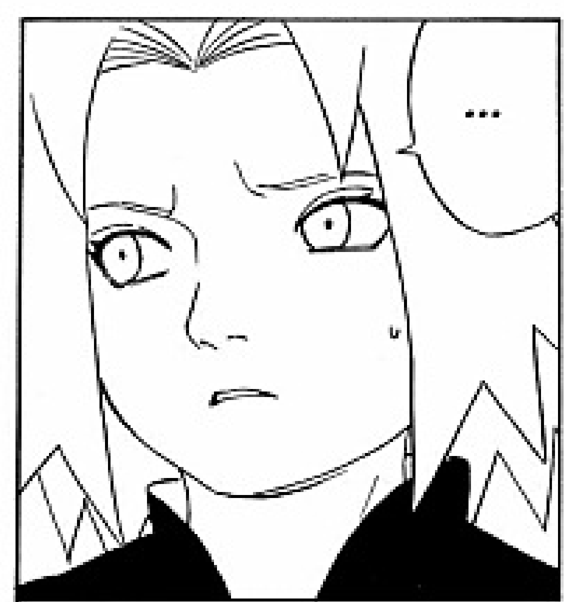



...


?


...EVEN MORE OF A REASON TO FEEL SOMETHING, THEN...
AND WHAT FACE WOULD I MAKE TO SHOW THAT I DID? ONE LIKE *THAT*...?

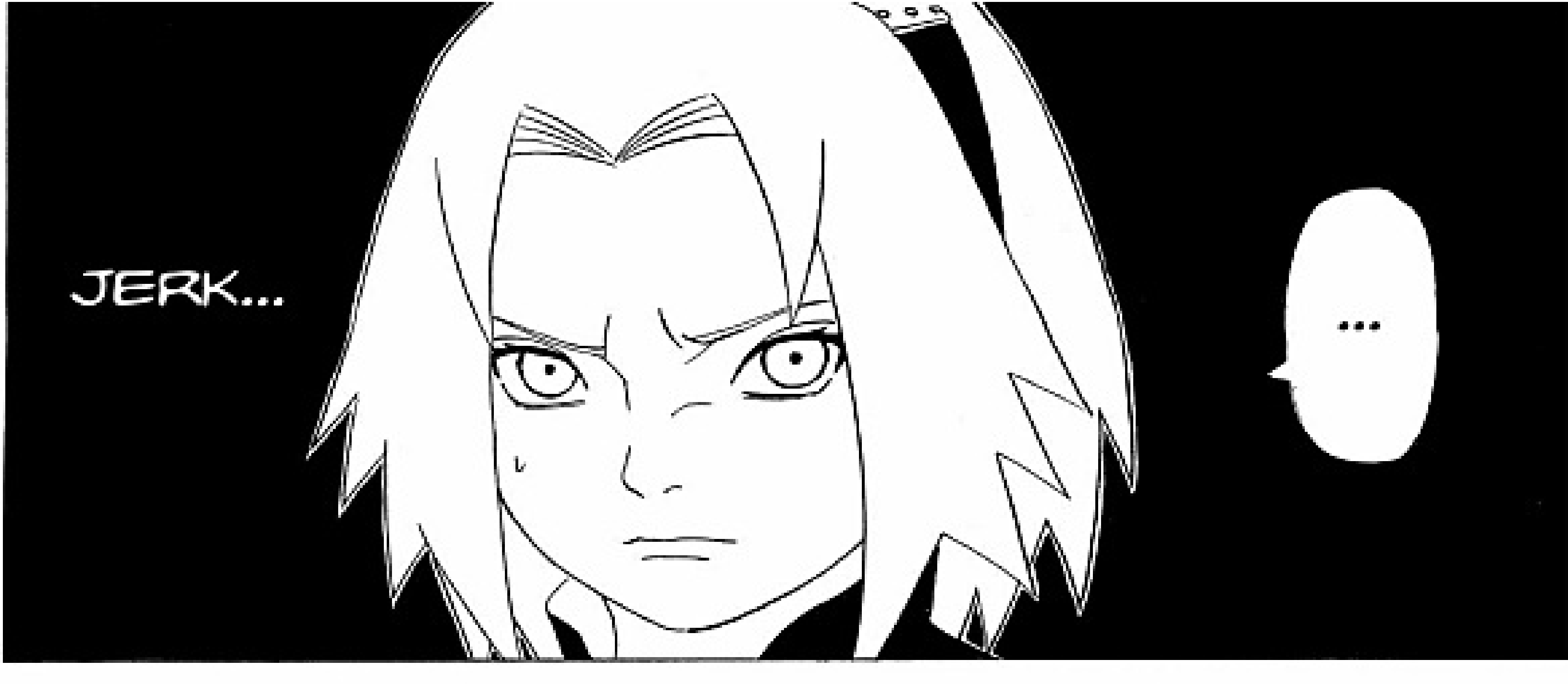

READ
THIS
WAY

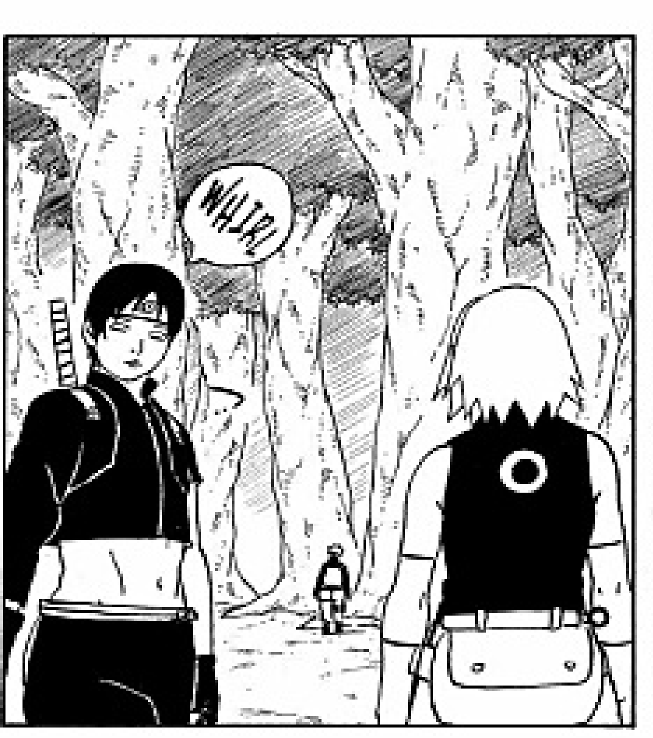

...


SHUF


SAI... I DON'T...


WELL...
WHEN MY BROTHER DIED, I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF EXPRESSION I WAS SUP-POSED TO BE MAKING.


...
JERK...


WHIRL


ENOUGH CHIT-CHAT.
WE'RE FALLING BEHIND SCHEDULE, SO EVERYONE GRAB YOUR PACKS.

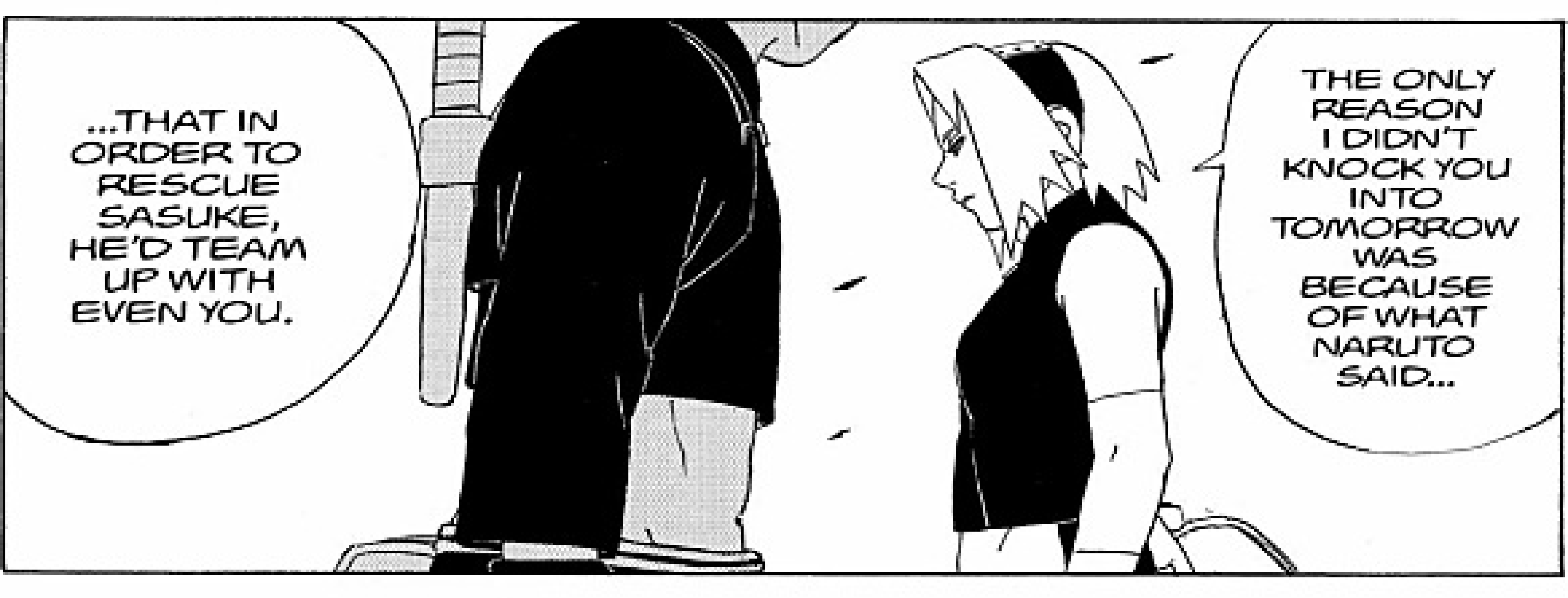

LUCKY YOU, SAI.
TRUTH BE TOLD...
...I WAS JUST ABOUT TO CLOBBER YOU AGAIN.


...

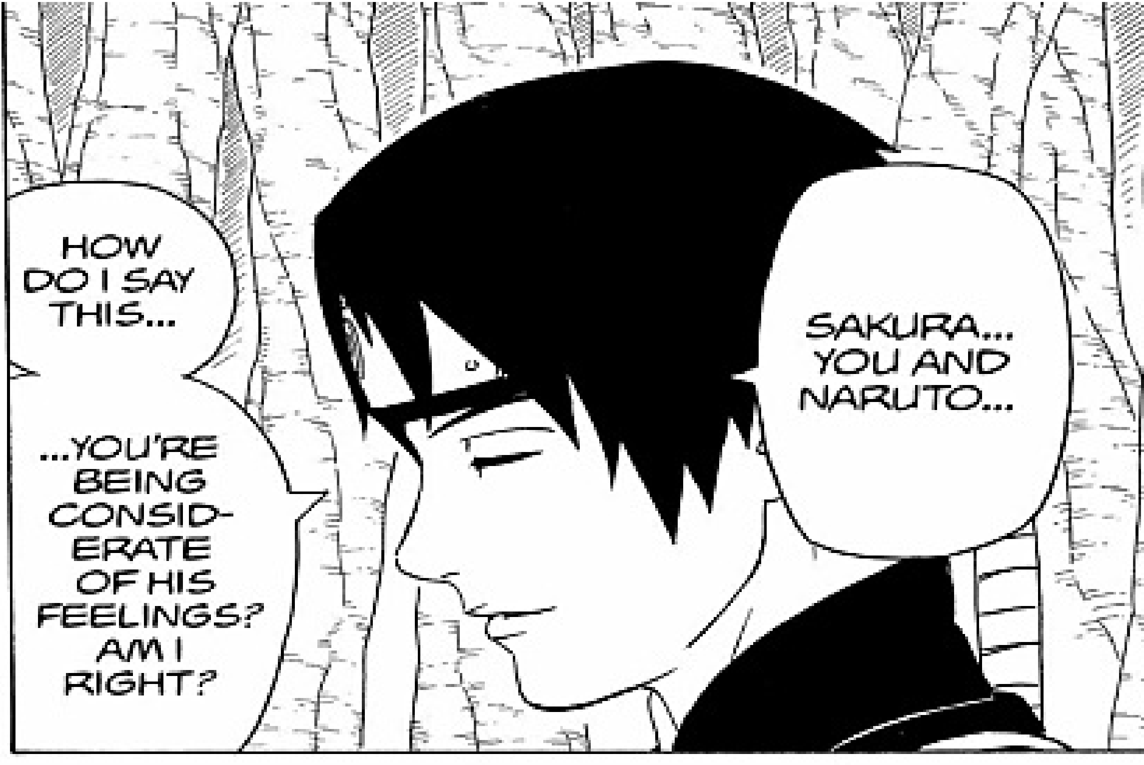

READ
THIS
WAY

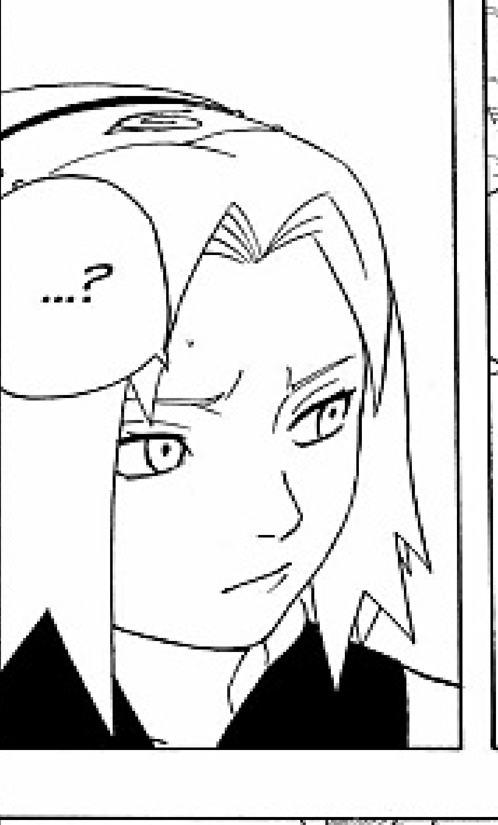

I WARNED YOU IF YOU KEPT BAD-MOUTHING SASUKE...
...I WOULDN'T HOLD BACK...


...


THE ONLY REASON I DIDN'T KNOCK YOU INTO TOMORROW WAS BECAUSE OF WHAT NARUTO SAID...
...THAT IN ORDER TO RESCUE SASUKE, HE'D TEAM UP WITH EVEN YOU.


FOR ONCE, HE'S BEING MORE FORGIVING THAN I AM... BUT IF YOU CAN HELP US GET OUR TEAMMATE BACK...
...I CAN'T AFFORD TO HURT YOU.





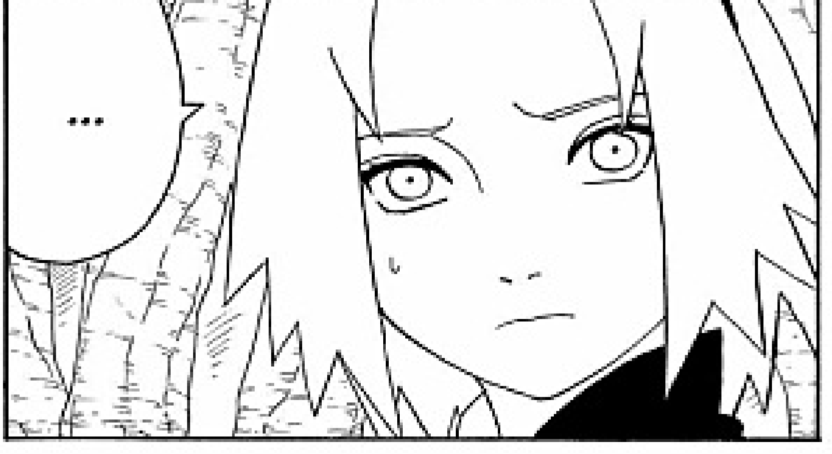
I REALLY DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW SUCH FEELINGS COME ABOUT...

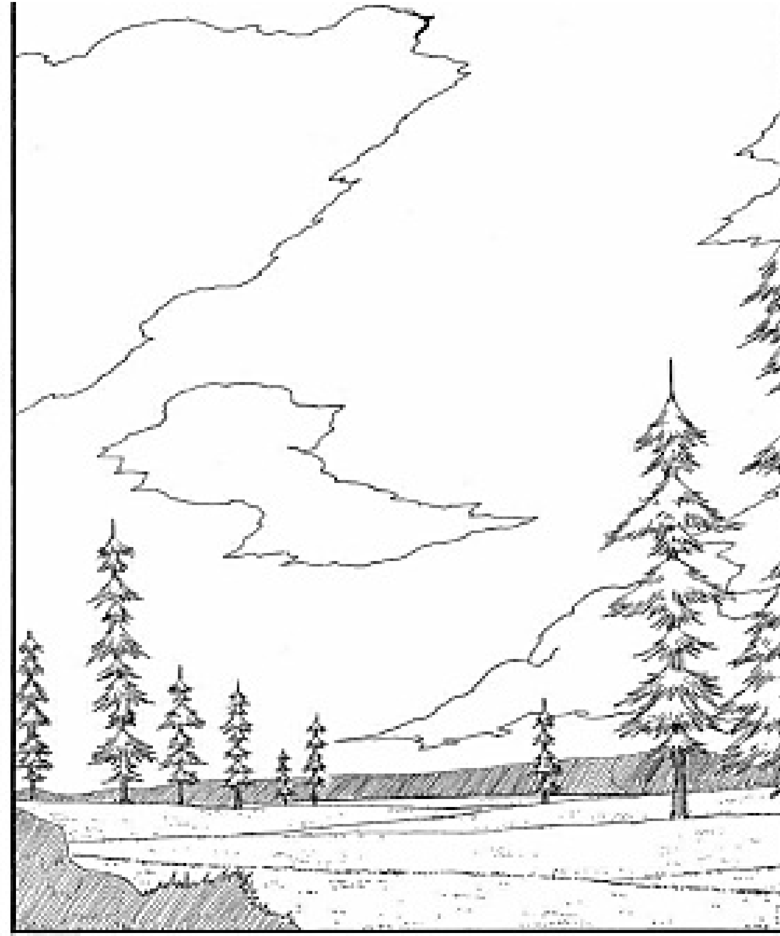
THOUGH THERE WAS SOMETHING ABOUT IT IN THIS BOOK...

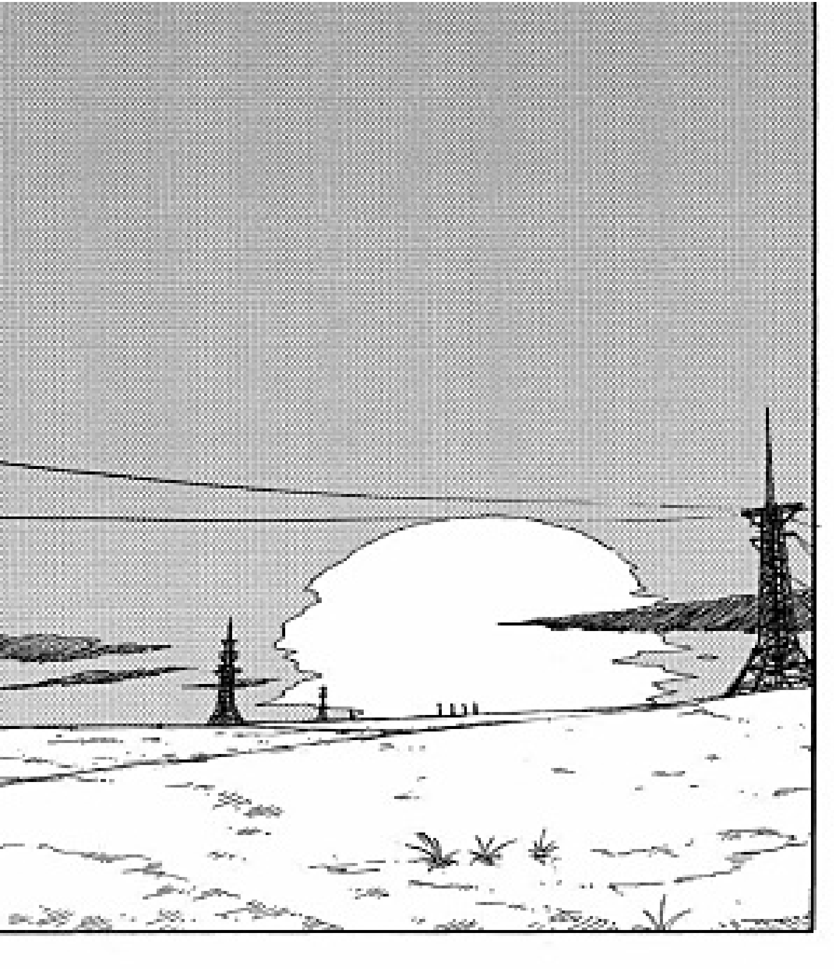
CAN WE JUST *GO* ALREADY?

IF WE'RE NOT IN PLACE BEFORE NOON TOMORROW, THIS MISSION IS OVER BEFORE IT EVEN STARTS.

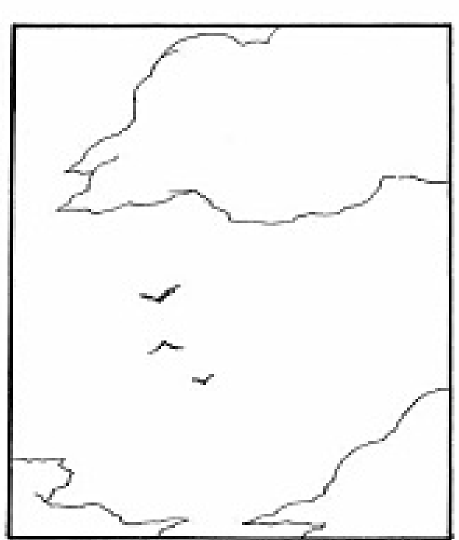




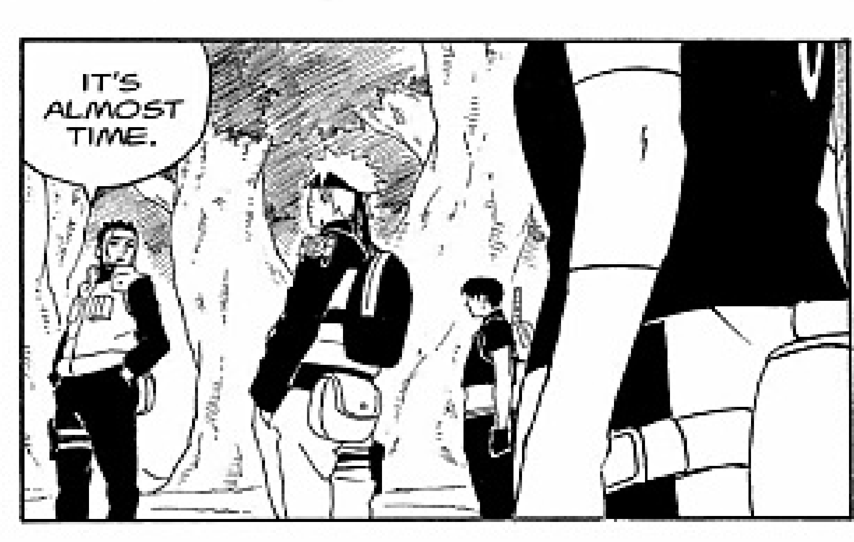










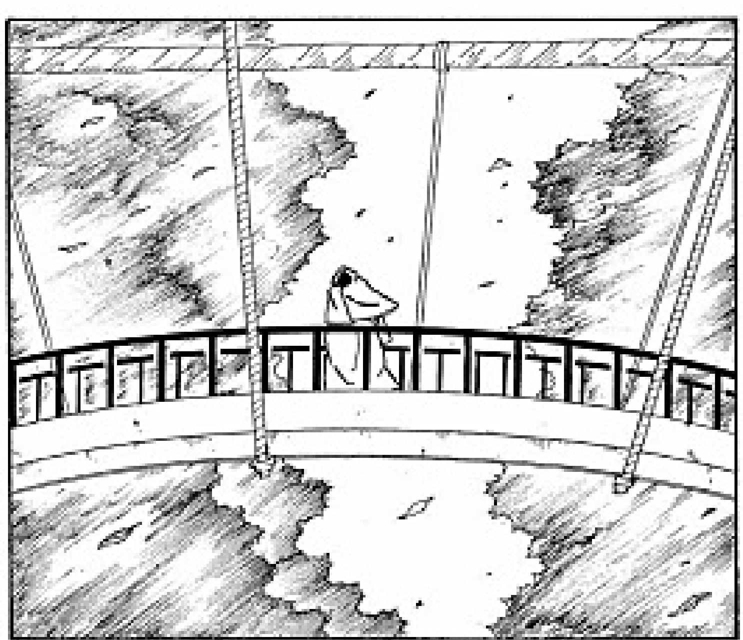




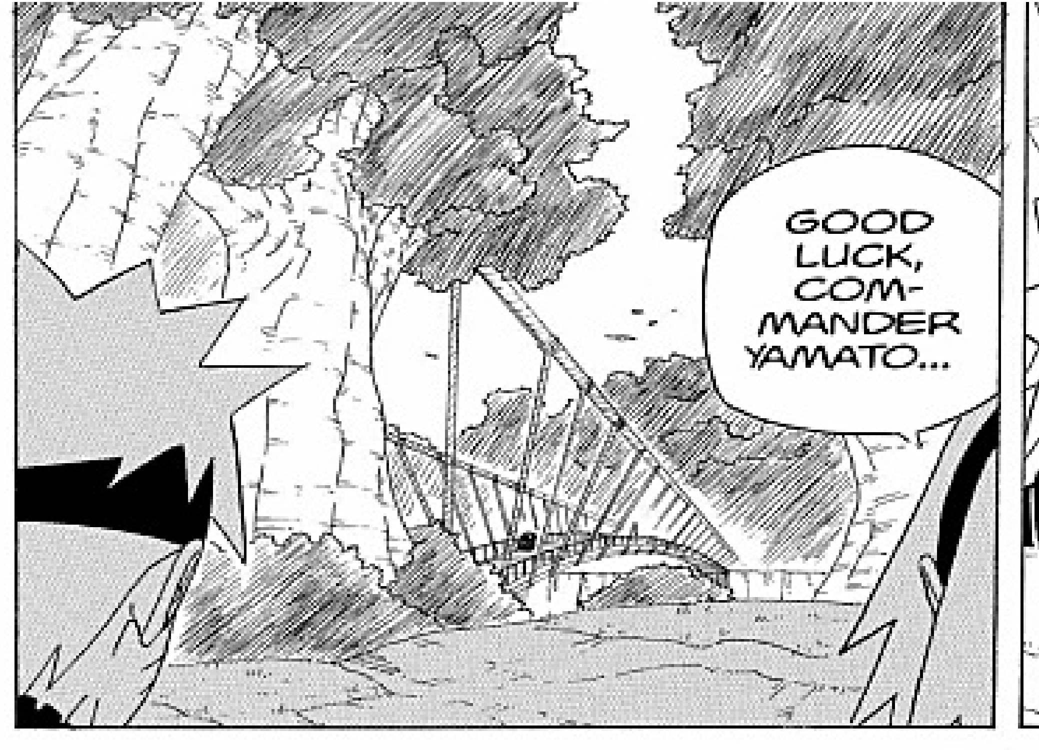
(POST: TENCHI BRIDGE)

WHOO

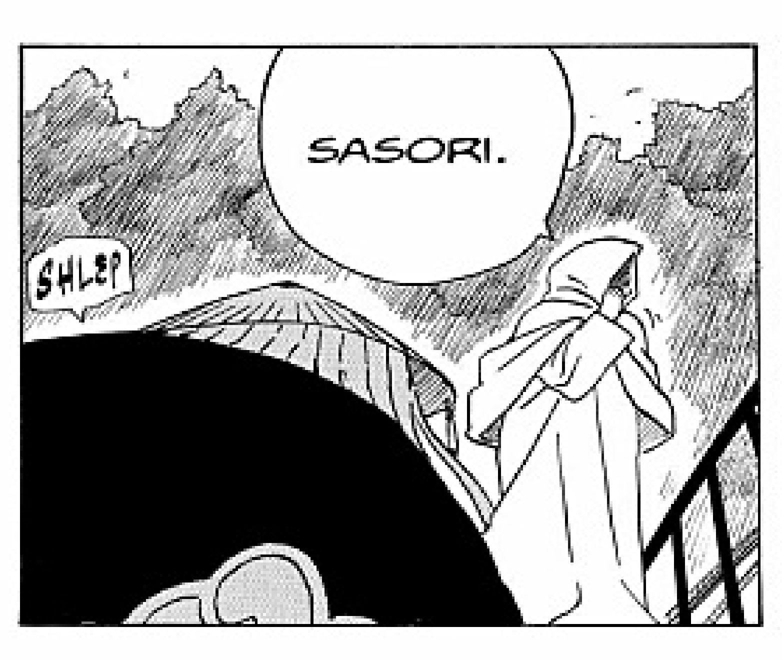


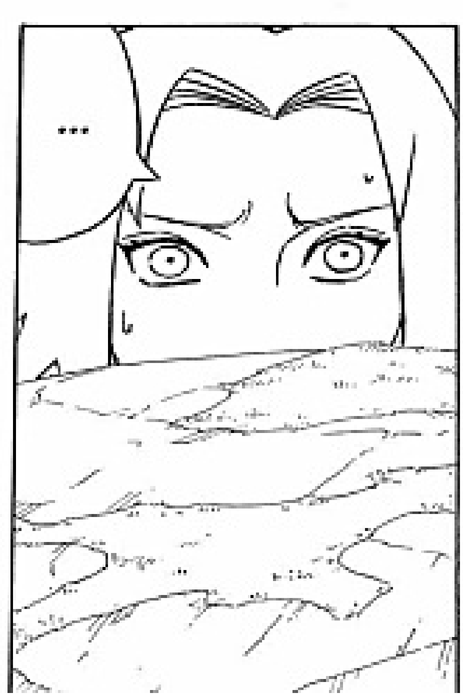



...


GOOD LUCK, COM-MANDER YAMATO...


DREDGE
DREDGE


SASORI.
SHLEP


...

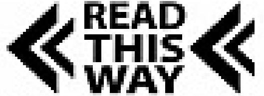

TUG

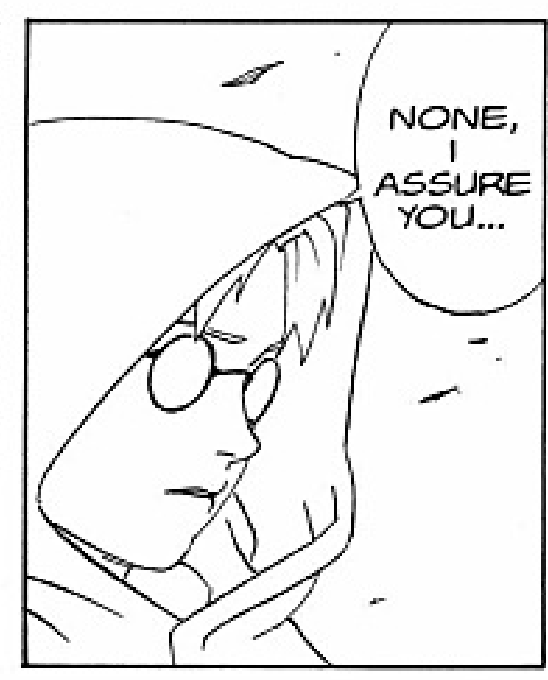

THAT'S ...!

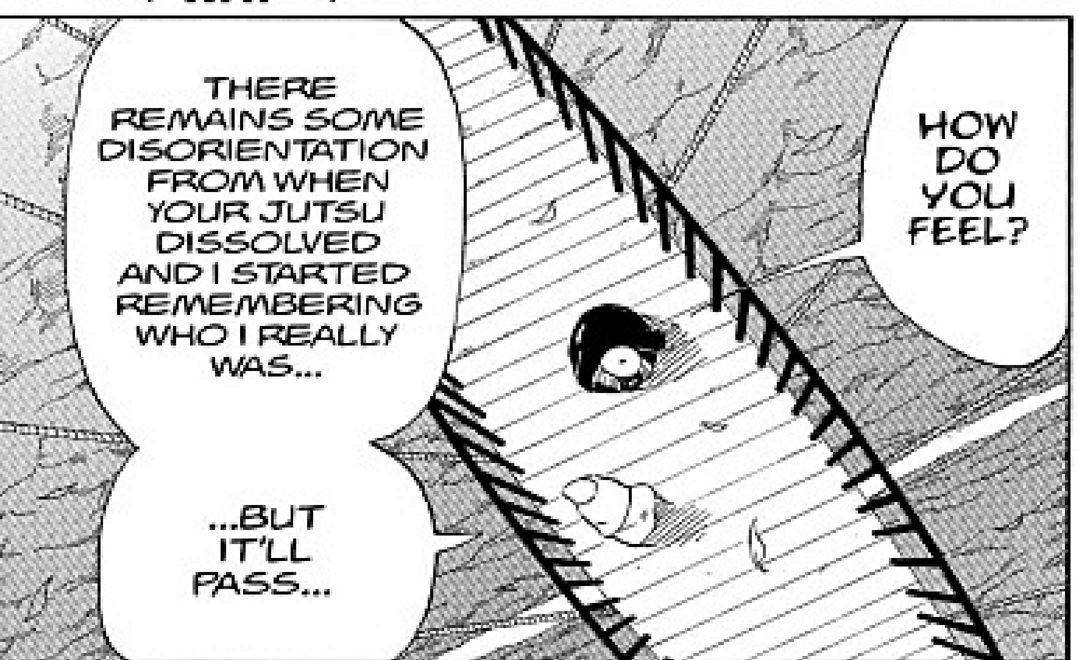
...HOW THE TIME FLIES.





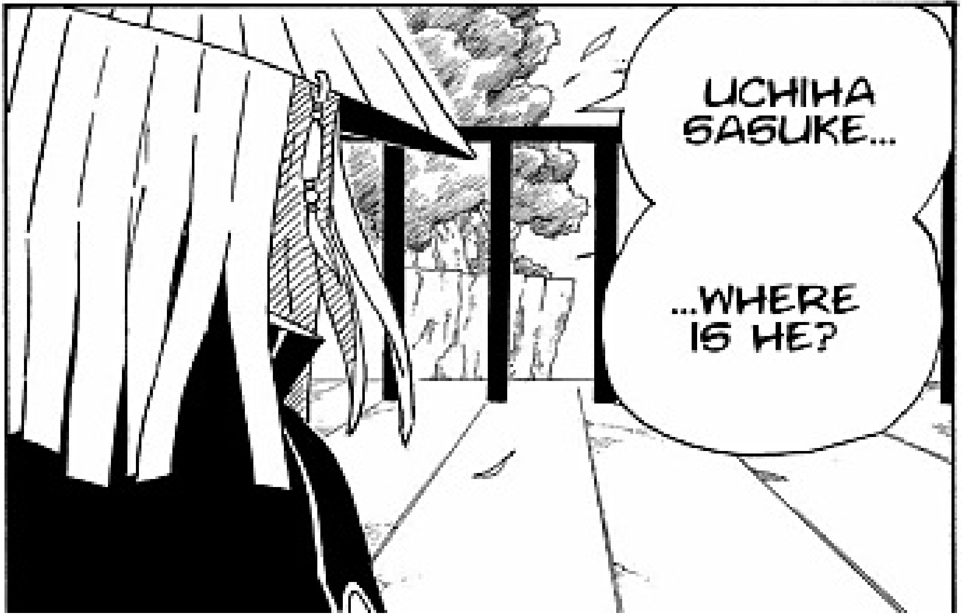

READ THIS WAY


NONE, I ASSURE YOU...


HOW DO YOU FEEL?
THERE REMAINS SOME DISORIENTATION FROM WHEN YOUR JUTSU DISSOLVED AND I STARTED REMEMBERING WHO I REALLY WAS...
...BUT IT'LL PASS...


HIM AGAIN ...!!
I CAN'T BELIEVE... THE AKATSUKI SPY IS KABUTO...!


I HAVE MANY QUES-TIONS.
THERE ISN'T MUCH TIME, SO PLEASE BE QUICK.
I'VE RISKED MY LIFE JUST COMING HERE.


UCHIHA SASUKE...
...WHERE IS HE?

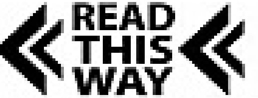

...

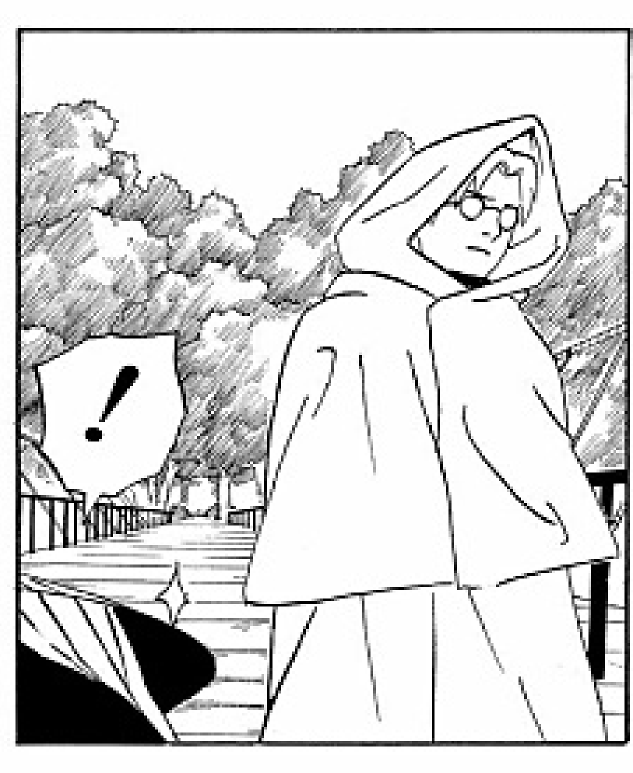
THERE ARE SEVERAL HIDEOUTS...
...BUT THESE CHANGE FROM WEEK TO WEEK SO HIS LOCATION CANNOT BE PINPOINTED.
WHOO
SOME ARE IN LANDS OUTSIDE THE SOUND...
...THAT OROCHIMARU'S SPIES HAVE INFILTRATED AND MAINTAIN FOR US.

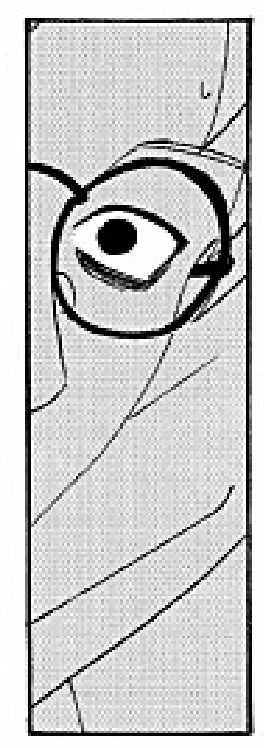




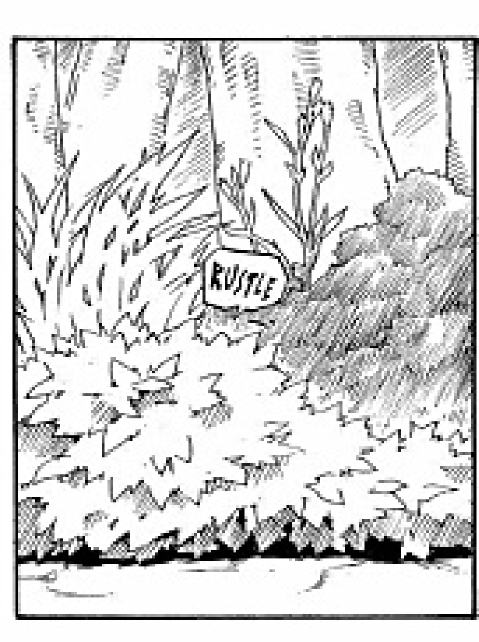


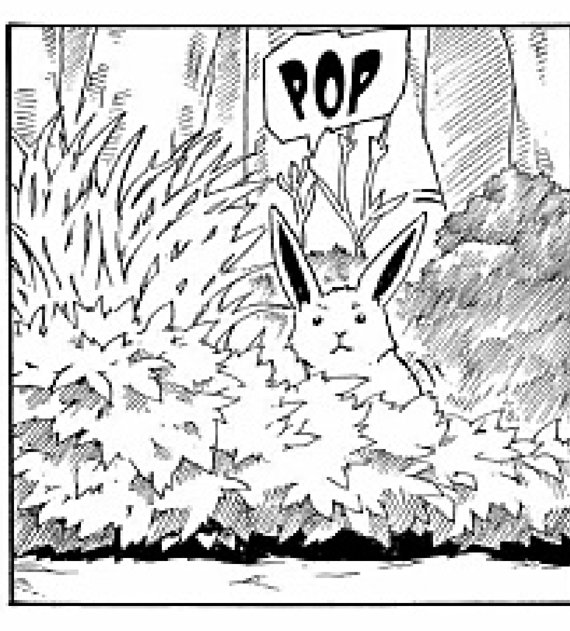

READ THIS WAY


!




!!
WHIRL


RUSTLE


POP

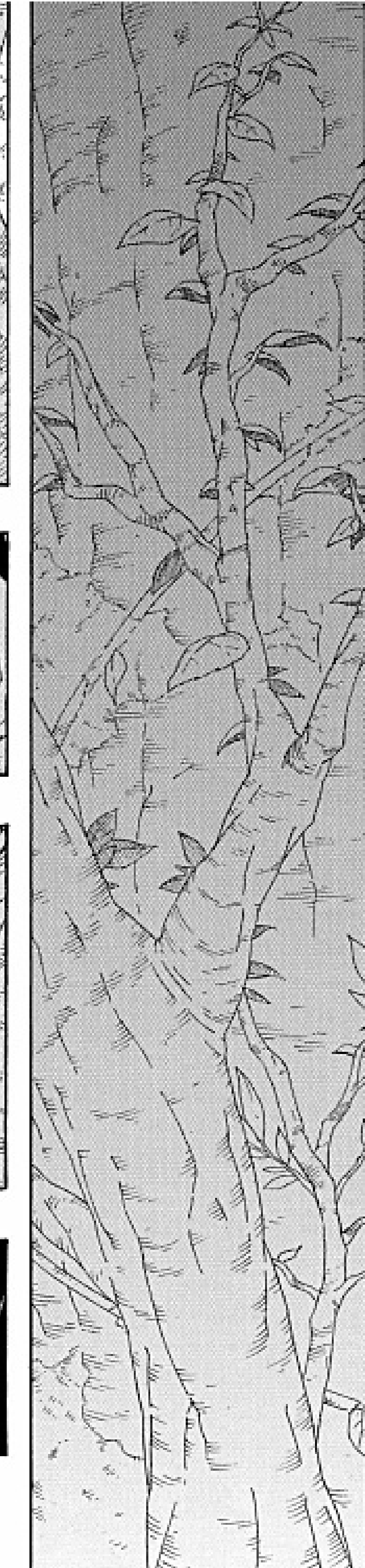

HOP


PHEW...
...JUST A RABBIT.

HISSSSS...

TWITCH

GULP



 TO BE CONTINUED IN *NARUTO* VOLUME 33!

